HOW TO GET LISTED ON GOOGLE – PAGE 50

Practical

THE UK'S FASTEST-GROWING NET MAGAZINE

internet™

THREE FULL PROGRAMS ■ 402 ISPs LISTED ■ 148 PAGES OF ADVICE

ISSUE 81 · JUNE 2003 · £4.99

BEAT NET RIP-OFFS

REVEALED: HOW YOU CAN STAY ONE STEP AHEAD OF THE ONLINE CONMEN

- How to tell if your ISP is robbing you blind
- Beat rip-off Britain by shopping online
- Knowing your rights as an online consumer
- Spot online scams and give them the elbow

PLUS! POWER USERS' GUIDE TO IE6
Take control of your browser on page 88

50 KILLER EMAIL TIPS

Get more from your mail client with our collection of essential tips and primers p32

NET GAMING: THE RETURN

Get ready to die harder and kill faster with our guide to broadband gaming p38

NO CD? HAVE A CHAT WITH YOUR NEWSAGENT NOW!

KILLER APP:

POWER UP WINDOWS WITH MICROSOFT'S SUITE OF ESSENTIAL ADD-ONS SEE PAGE 122

HOT NEW KIT:

SEE HOW LOGITECH HAS REDEFINED THE WEBCAM WITH ITS AMAZING NEW WIRELESS MODEL P119

JUNE 2003 | WITH FREE CD WORTH £308

£4.99 "excite, enthuse and inform"

9 771366 766039 81

PARAGON PUBLISHING

Issue 81

WebFusion®

seriously easy web hosting®

SALES HOTLINE 0870 333 0287

for resellers

Host Unlimited Domains with MyServerWorld™ 10.0

Host an Unlimited Number of Domains for FREE using the worlds most advanced, feature rich Web Hosting Control Panel, MyServerWorld™ 10.0

£50 WebFusion Reseller

PER MONTH (or £500 per year)

FREE SETUP

Why not join thousands of other Resellers, Web Designers and Entrepreneurs and sign-up for the UK's Number One Web Hosting Reseller Account?

Benefits of the WebFusion Reseller Account Include*:-

- Design your own Control Panel 100% Branded to your Company for Free!
- Design your own Web Hosting Packages and Change them in Real Time Online!
- Full Customer Management System
- WebFusion launched the Original Reseller Package in 1998, Join the Leader not the Followers!
- Innovative New Features added all the time
- WebFusion Manage over 4000 Servers and Monitor them around the clock!
- Instantly Setup and Manage your Accounts Online with the UK's Most Flexible Reseller Package

Reseller Simple Includes:-

- Unlimited Domains (no additional fees)
- Unlimited E-mail Addresses (forward and catch all)
- Unlimited E-mail Announcement Lists
- Unlimited E-mail Auto responders • Unlimited Spam Filters
- Between 5 and 500 MB of web space • Full FTP access

Reseller Advanced Includes:-

- All the Features that are in your Master Account in its own separate account

Your Master Account Includes:-

- NEW Host as many Domains as you like with no Additional Charges
- NEW Unlimited Web Space
- NEW 10GB Data Transfer (Bandwidth) per Month
- NEW MyServerWorld™ 10.0, UK's Most Powerful Control Panel

- FREE and UNLIMITED 24/7/365 Phone and E-mail support
- State-of-the-Art Data Centre • 3 Connections to the Internet
- Unlimited E-mail Forwarding • Unlimited Mailing Lists
- Unlimited Autoresponders • Unlimited Spam Filters
- Full CGI-BIN & Perl • Real Audio & MP3
- MIVA Scripting Language • 10 MySQL Databases
- Manage MySQL Databases Online • Active Server Pages (ASP) • SSH Telnet Access • PHP4 Scripting Language
- Webalizer Graphical Statistics • 500 Sub Domains
- Use our Generic Name Servers for Free • Detailed Online Help
- Password Protection • Custom Error Messages • 15 Free CGI Scripts • Full FTP Access • Powerful Online Mail Client • Back Up Your Web Site Online • Web Site Link Checker & HTML Validator • Add E-commerce Option For Small Fee
- Control Your Account Online With no Fuss • Termination Anytime • 99.9% Uptime • 30 Day Money Back Guarantee
- Server Backed Up Every Day • One Hour Setup!

Then add as many additional accounts as you like!

UNLIMITED DOMAINS

24/7/365 FREE & UNLIMITED TECHNICAL SUPPORT

MULTIPLE CONNECTIONS TO THE INTERNET

MONEY BACK GUARANTEE

MYSERVERWORLD 10.0

MasterCard SWITCH SOLO VISA AMERICAN EXPRESS DELTA DIRECT Debit

We welcome all major debit and credit cards. Prices exclude VAT @ 17.5%

*Some Features Only Available on Reseller Master and Advanced Additional Accounts

e-mail us: sales@webfusion.co.uk

order on-line: www.webfusion.co.uk

PART OF THE Host Europe GROUP

WebFusion®

seriously easy web hosting®

SALES HOTLINE 0870 333 0259

for business

£199 Business Professional

PER YEAR

Packages Include:

- NEW **1000MB** Lightning-Fast UK Web Space
- NEW **10GB** Data Transfer (Bandwidth) per Month
- NEW MyServerWorld™ 10.0
- **FREE and UNLIMITED** phone and E-mail Support
- State-of-the-Art Data Centre
- Your Own Domain Name
- Multiple High Speed Connections
- 1000 POP3 E-mail Boxes
- Graphical Access Statistics
- Unlimited E-mail Forwarding
- Unlimited Mailing Lists
- Unlimited Autoresponders
- Full CGI-BIN
- Free Use of Secure Server
- Miva Scripting Language
- MS FrontPage Extensions
- Active Server Pages
- MySQL Database
- PHP4 Scripting Language
- RealAudio and MP3
- SSH Telnet Access • Detailed On-line Help
- Regular Server Backups • Additional Options Available
- Money Back Guarantee* • Terminate Anytime
- **SAME HOUR SETUP**

E-Commerce Only £499 per year:

- All of the above except
- **600MB** Lightning-Fast UK Web Space
- Shopping Cart Solution pre-installed, fully integrated with secure server and ready to run

"The new MyServerWorld 10.0 represents a quantum leap in control panel technology - nobody else can offer these features or functionality"

Philippa Forrester
TV presenter and technology expert

MyServerWorld™ 10.0

- All Our Usual Features Improved!
- New Web Site Statistics with Graphical Reports
- Powerful On-line Mail Client
- Back Up your Web Site On-line
- Manage MySQL Features On-line
- **500** Free Subdomains
- Data Transfer Manager
- Web Site Link Checker and HTML Validator
- **25** Free FTP Accounts
- Trace and Ping your site
- Automatic Script Execution
- Many More New Features!

State-of-the-Art Data Centre

Our state-of-the-art data centre is located within our facility in Nottingham. It houses our network of over 4000 servers. With multiple connections to the net, fire protection and backup generators, we are in a position to offer you the reliability and stability you have been dreaming of!

24 / 7 / 365 **FREE** Technical Support

All WebFusion hosting packages come complete with 24/7/365 free telephone and e-mail technical support, plus an extensive online help and information system. Unlike our competitors, we believe in providing the very best after sales care and technical support.

We welcome all major debit and credit cards. Prices exclude VAT @ 17.5%
*Excludes shopping cart licence fee

e-mail us:
sales@webfusion.co.uk

order on-line:
www.webfusion.co.uk

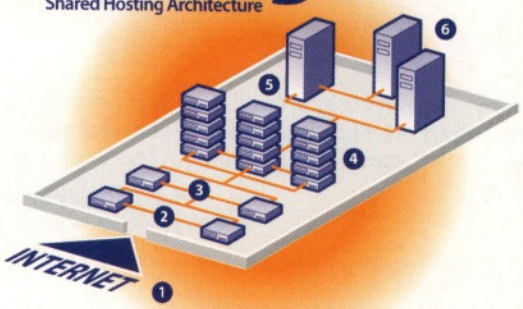
PART OF THE Host Europe GROUP

100% Uptime for your business website

- Your site hosted on multiple high performance web-servers
- All requests for your site load balanced, ensuring maximum availability
- Ideal for business critical websites
- 100% uptime guaranteed

envisage is a unique technology, developed in house in partnership with Microsoft. It's available exclusively at Fasthosts - no other hosting company can offer you this level of reliability and performance for your website.

envisage
Shared Hosting Architecture



1. **Network Firewall** - Protects our network
2. **Internal Firewall** - Second protective shield
3. **Load Balancers** - Efficiently distributes traffic across server clusters
4. **Redundant Web Servers** - Ensures delivery of site contents if one server fails
5. **Network Storage** - Independent storage optimising server performance
6. **Disk Backup** - Routine backup storage to prevent data loss

Optimized for .net development
Microsoft Windows Server 2003
redhat

"Fasthosts have always provided us with an efficient and reliable service at competitive rates."

David Watham
Watham Communications

Microsoft CERTIFIED Partner

Powerful, reliable & feature packed hosting

The high performance hosting account ideal for businesses that need their website available at all times. With features such as e-mail virus scanning, spam filtering and SMS alerts together with full support for the latest scripting technologies, the Business account is the most comprehensive and powerful solution available in the UK.

Business account at a glance

Website
Your website is hosted on our unique ***envisage*** Shared Hosting Technology. With ***envisage***, your site is hosted by multiple web-servers ensuring it is super-fast and always available. ***envisage*** is only available from Fasthosts and offers the most reliable platform for website hosting. Your site is hosted on your choice of either Windows 2003 IIS6 or Linux Apache servers. 2GB of web-space is included.

Scripting
We offer full support for ASP, ASP.NET, Perl, PHP, ODBC, CGI and the .NET Framework.

Matrix Web Stats
Full, real-time information about your site's visitors is provided with Matrix Stats - the leading web based traffic reporting program. Dozens of reports are available allowing you to accurately track visitors to your site.

Email
Your account includes unlimited email addresses - which can be full POP3 mail accounts or forwarders. We've also included web-mail so you can read your mail on the move plus virus scanning, spam filtering and even SMS alerts informing you when new messages arrive!

Control Panel
Our award winning online control panel is the industry leading tool for managing and provisioning your services. You can control everything from the web - from setting up domains, email, databases, installing FrontPage Extensions and more!

Databases
We support MSSQL and MYSQL databases

Plus...
FrontPage Extensions
Full access via FTP
SSL Support
Media Streaming
Password Protected Folders on your sites
Dialup Internet Access

FREE INSTANT SET UP
£14.99
PER MONTH OR £149.99 PA

The power behind web hosting
- Multiple Internet Connections
- Xtreme Support 24 x 7, 365 phone and email
- Online FAQs, Knowledge Base and White Papers
- State of the Art UK based Data Centre
- UK's best value domain names at www.ukreg.com

All your hosting needs
- Starter package from £1.99
- Developer packages from £19.99
- Unlimited Reseller package from £50
- Dedicated server solutions from £89
- 30 Day Money Back Guarantee

To speak to our Sales team call

0870 888 3671

For more details and to launch your service within minutes, visit www.fasthosts.co.uk

fasthosts
www.fasthosts.co.uk

Welcome

THE *PI* TEAM LET US KNOW THEIR FAVOURITE LOVABLE ROGUES...

James Thornton
Features Editor

"I'd pick Ruprecht off *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*, played by Steve Martin. I'd get one over on him by pretending I was his lovechild then blagging millions off him"

Mark Billen
Staff Writer

"My choice is Dick Dastardly off of *Wacky Races*, because his scams are so rubbish. You have to respect the way he's constantly duped by a talking dog."

Colleen Johnson
Sub Editor

"There was a man called 'Mr Nightingale' who nabbed millions from a South African bank. Everyone rooted for him, and somebody even wrote a hit song about him."

Nicky Bartlett
Senior Designer

"I want Han Solo, because he's a rogue and a scoundrel who I wouldn't mind defeating the Empire with at any time...especially if I got to wear my hair in buns!"

Lee Cornish
Multimedia Editor

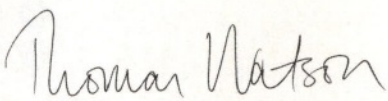
"My favourite rogue is Tinker Dill off *Lovejoy*, but that's probably only because I'd secretly like to dress up in plus fours and a beret and wear a monocle."

Editor's welcome

Hands up who likes being ripped off. Not many I'll bet – yet I guarantee we've all been conned at some point. Why does it happen time and time again? We'd all love to blame the con merchants for leading our innocent minds astray, but the simple fact is that it's our own fault for falling for the scams in the first place.

How many times have you thought an offer looked too good to be true, then thought 'sod it', and decided to part with your hard-earned anyway? Alas, everyone has been overtaken by the greed monster at some point, and has put rational thought aside in the search for that ultimate bargain. Web sites, by their very faceless nature, are extremely dangerous for the more gullible of us, but there's no need to fall into the same traps again and again. Check out our guide starting on page 24 for the full rundown on avoiding that sinking feeling on the Web. From email scams through to dodgy auction deals, we teach you how to steer well clear of the online conmen.

Elsewhere in this month's jam-packed issue, you'll find 50 tips every Outlook Express user should follow, and there's a welcome return for online gaming. The subject, formerly the darling of *Practical Internet*, hasn't appeared for a while, but broadband is currently giving the online gaming world a kick in the pants. There are also more tips and tricks this month, as well as a full complement of workshops. Enjoy!



Thomas Watson, Editor
thomas@paragon.co.uk

PRACTICAL INTERNET: YOUR GUARANTEE OF VALUE

Why we're the number one Net magazine for:

In-depth features
Each issue of *Practical Internet* contains detailed features on the latest Net topics, brought to you by our team of leading writers. We cover a variety of subjects every month to ensure that you get the complete picture. Our comprehensive news section brings you the latest Internet developments in an unbiased and impartial style.

Expert help
Practical Internet is devoted to making your life as hassle-free as possible, with dedicated sections for Web design and browsing help. With more workshops than our rivals, we aim to keep you up to date with the latest techniques. What's more, our workshops are only written by experts, so you can expect excellent results every time.

Independent advice
We realise how important value for money is, so we provide impartial buying advice every month in our reviews section and buyers' guides. We also provide regular ISP roundups, in addition to money-saving features to keep you informed of the best deals around – and to ensure you carry on getting the best from the Net for less.

HOW TO CONTACT *PRACTICAL INTERNET*

General enquiries
pi@paragon.co.uk
01202 299900

CD help
cdhelp@paragon.co.uk
01202 200259

Subscriptions
paragon@cisubs.co.uk
01454 642442

Q&A
helpdesk@paragon.co.uk
01202 299900

Customer services
subs@paragon.co.uk
01202 200200

Editorial submissions
pi@paragon.co.uk
01202 299900

Host Unlimited Domains with the UK's most advanced reseller solution

New envisage Shared Hosting Architecture

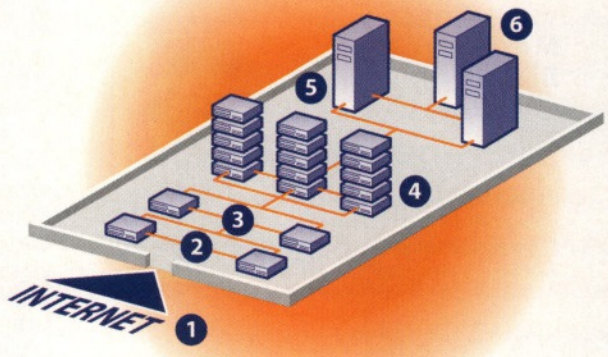
The Reseller account is a great way to manage multiple websites. Our unbeatable range of features - such as brandable web-mail, website creator and spam filtering - sets you apart from the competition and our award winning online control panel allows you to create and manage services in real-time.

All your domains are hosted on our **envisage** Shared Hosting Architecture, which is the most reliable hosting platform for your website:

- Your sites hosted on multiple high performance web-servers
- All requests for your site load balanced, ensuring maximum availability
- Ideal for business critical websites
- Runs on Windows 2003 IIS6 with full support for ASP, ASP.NET, Perl, PHP and CGI
- Latest Linux Apache servers with full support for Perl, PHP and CGI
- 100% uptime guaranteed

envisage is a new and unique Fasthosts technology, developed in house in partnership with Microsoft. It's available exclusively at Fasthosts - no other hosting company can offer you this level of reliability and performance for your websites.

envisage
Shared Hosting Architecture



1. **Network Firewall** - Protects our network
2. **Internal Firewall** - Second protective shield
3. **Load Balancers** - Efficiently distributes traffic across server clusters
4. **Redundant Web-Servers** - Ensures delivery of site contents if one server fails
5. **Network Storage** - Independent storage optimising server performance
6. **Disk Backup** - Routine backup storage to prevent data loss

Optimized for .net developers

Microsoft Windows Server 2003

redhat

"I've tried all the reseller offerings out there and it's no wonder that everyone follows Fasthosts"

GEOFF COLLINS MXT LOGISTICS

Microsoft CERTIFIED Partner

Order now on-line at

www.fasthosts.co.uk

Reseller account at a glance

Unlimited Domains
You can easily add an unlimited number of domains to your account at no extra cost. All your domains are load balanced across multiple servers using our unique ***envisage*** Hosting Technology. Each domain is a full Virtual Server hosted on your choice of Windows 2003 IIS6 or Linux Apache servers.

Scripting
envisage supports ASP, ASP.NET, Perl, PHP, ODBC and CGI. You can also instantly enable the .NET framework on any of your domains.

Web Builder
Our feature-rich online website building tool enables your customers to create their site with an easy to use wizard. There are advanced editing options for more knowledgeable users and as a reseller, you can custom brand the web builder with your own identity and logos.

Matrix Web Stats
With Matrix Stats you can monitor and analyse your websites traffic. Matrix Stats runs in real-time and can be installed on any of your domain names.

Email
All your domains have unlimited POP3 accounts and forwarders. We also offer web-mail (which you can brand for your customers), virus scanning, spam filtering and SMS email alerts.

Databases
You can setup MYSQL and MSSQL databases instantly and use them with any of your websites.

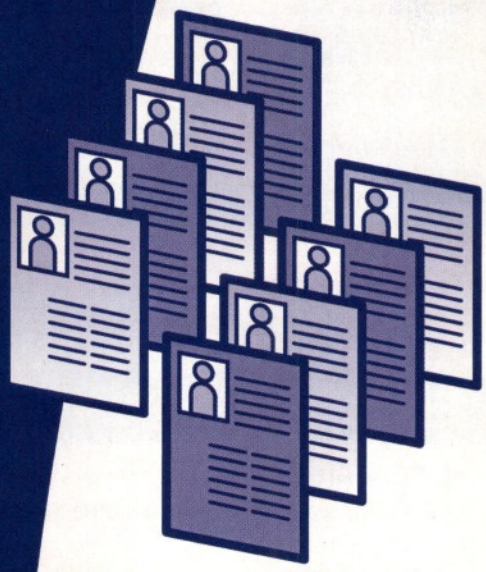
FrontPage Extensions
You can install Microsoft FrontPage Extensions 2002 on any of your domains.

Control Panel
Our award winning online control panel is the industry leading tool for managing and provisioning your services. You can control everything from the web - from setting up domains, email, databases, installing FrontPage Extensions and more! All of the features of the reseller package are managed via your control panel.

Customized Control Panels
You can setup control panels for your customers to manage their individual domain names and services. You can completely customize the look and feel of your client control panels.

Plus....
- Your own custom name servers
- Create unlimited FTP accounts
- SSL Support
- Media Streaming
- Password Protected Folders on your sites
- Create dialup accounts for your customers: become a virtual ISP!

FREE INSTANT SET UP
£50.00
PER MONTH OR £500.00 PA



New online customer management included

- Manage your customer database online
- Create your own customized hosting plans
- Associate websites & services with your customers
- Optimize your customer relationship management: send emails, newsletters and announcements
- Import and export feature - works with your existing customer database

Fasthosts integrated Customer Management is included with all reseller accounts and is a great out-of-the-box solution for small businesses.

* Some of the features mentioned above incur additional charges. Please see www.fasthosts.co.uk for full price tariff.

The power behind web hosting
- Multiple Internet Connections
- Xtreme Support 24 x 7, 365 phone and email
- Online FAQs, Knowledge Base and White Papers
- State of the Art UK based Data Centre
- UK's best value domain names at www.ukreg.com

All your hosting needs
- Starter package from £1.99
- Business packages from £14.99
- Developer packages from £19.99
- Dedicated server solutions from £89
- 30 Day Money Back Guarantee

Xtreme SUPPORT
Always there for you

To speak to our Sales team call

0870 888 3670

For more details and to launch your service within minutes, visit www.fasthosts.co.uk

fasthosts
www.fasthosts.co.uk

PI600

Issue 81

Practical internet

Essentials

10 News
The recording industry has quite a fight on its hands – and so does Madonna

16 iCandy
Tune in to the sexiest gadgets, the hottest hardware and the coolest kit

19 Backchat
See what *PI* readers have to say, and why a cover is causing a stir months after it came out

74 Subscriptions
Save yourself time, hassle and money with our fantastic subscription offer

77 Competition
Win yourself Freeserve Broadband and much more in our £1600 competition

95 Your Business Online
Advice that any small business owner shouldn't fail to heed, including a guide to choosing the right domain name

124 Disc contents
As ever, the CD is packed to the hilt with top quality software. Get the lowdown here

128 Buyers' guide
Pick your ideal ISP with the help of our comprehensive ISP listings guide

146 Web's most wanted
We reveal the people who really shouldn't be allowed to have Web space

24 Beat Net rip-offs
Stop the online conmen before they get to you. We give you a rundown of all the tips and tricks you need to learn in order to stay ahead of the game

Reviews

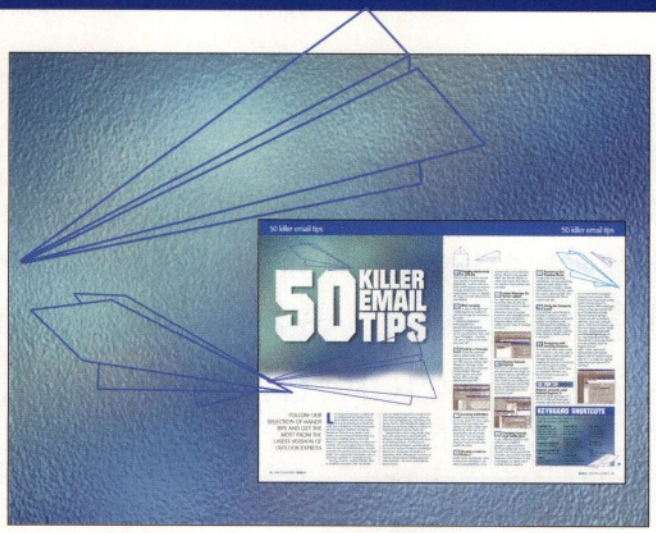
111 We road test the latest gadgets and software, including an innovative new Webcam

Web browsing

78 Take the Net by the scruff of the neck with our section dedicated to showcasing the best Net techniques and sites. In this month's browsing pages:

78 Surf differently with Mozilla
80 Get the news as it happens with the easy-to-use NewsAnchor
82 Reap the rewards of turning to Grokster's file-sharing prowess
84 Take Windows Media Player 9 to a new plateau with our power guide
86 Find it now: we showcase ten of the best Web logs around
88 Show Internet Explorer who's boss with our comprehensive power tips
90 Maverick Clive Parker rides into town to save you from Internet disasters

Contents



32 **50 killer email tips**
Take control of your email client with our roundup of the tips, tricks and tweaks you can't afford to live without

38 **Net gaming: the return**
After years in the wilderness, online gaming is set to revolutionise the way we use the Net. We take a look

44 **The greatest Net hoaxes of all time**
Discover the online japes that make Noel Edmonds and Jeremy Beadle go green with envy

Webmaster

49 **25 pages of Web design**
Don't accept second best – transform yourself into the Web guru you want to be with our section devoted to designers and developers

50 A site is nothing without visitors, so we show you how you can improve your chances of getting listed on search engines like Google

52 Give your Flash MX skills a boost by getting stuck into our ten power tips

54 Build a fully accessible dynamic site with Dreamweaver and Flash MX

60 Give your digital snaps the once-over with the brand new Paint Shop Pro 8

62 We show how you to incorporate Flash animations onto any Web page

64 Jazz up your basic HTML pages no end with the help of a little CSS

66 Create a cool calculator for your site by generating a dash of JavaScript

68 We reveal how to add products to your cart in the second part of our guide to creating an eCommerce site with PHP and MySQL

70 Web guru, theatrical wonder and all-round superhero James Seabright fends off Web design disasters for lucky readers

HOW TO GET YOUR SITE TO THE TOP OF THE SEARCHING TREE – PAGE 50
EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO BUILD STUNNING SITES
Webmaster
IN-DEPTH FEATURES
STEP-BY-STEP WORKSHOPS
HAND-CODING MASTERCLASS
WELCOME...
What's inside...
Accessibility
WE SHOW YOU HOW YOU CAN BUILD GREAT-LOOKING ACCESSIBLE SITES WITH FLASH AND DREAMWEAVER. SEE PAGE 54
Also in Webmaster this issue...

News

All the latest Web sites, products and services

File-sharing clients bounce back

GROKSTER AND MORPHEUS SCORE LANDMARK VICTORY OVER THE RIAA, BUT EXPERTS WARN THAT THE RECORDING INDUSTRY MAY NOW TARGET INDIVIDUAL P2P USERS

THE RECORDING INDUSTRY has been dealt a massive blow in its bid to wipe out file-sharing clients, after a US judge threw out its case against Grokster and Morpheus.

US District Court judge Stephen Wilson ruled that the song-swapping services could not be held accountable for illegal file sharing done by their users.

Judge Wilson said that Grokster and Morpheus provide technology which is used for both legal and illegal means, and deemed that the developers cannot control what the end user does with this technology. He added that neither Grokster nor StreamCast, which develops the Morpheus software, have knowledge of when a user trades a copyrighted file, nor do they have the means to stop this.

"It is undisputed that there are substantial non-infringing uses for the defendants' software," ruled Judge Wilson. "For instance, StreamCast has adduced evidence that the Morpheus program is used to facilitate and search for public domain materials, government documents, media content for which distribution is authorised and computer software for which distribution is permitted."

It could be you

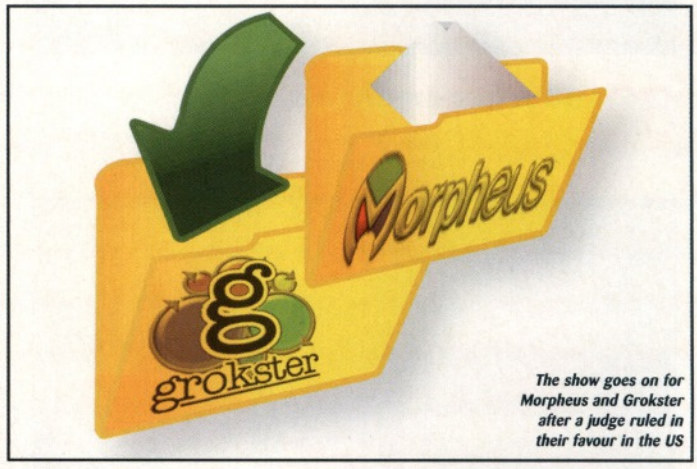
This verdict is likely to leave a sour taste in the mouths of the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA), which brought the charges.

The organisation, which was responsible for shutting down Napster, must now find measures to protect artists and labels from losing out to file sharing. Unfortunately for many file sharers, this could mean the RIAA targeting individual users for prosecution. The likelihood of this has increased in light of a separate case involving the industry body in which the RIAA was given more power to unmask individual file swappers. In this case, US ISP Verizon was given 14 days to hand over the name of a subscriber accused of offering music files for download using KaZaA.

"THERE ARE SUBSTANTIAL NON-INFRINGING USES FOR THE DEFENDANTS' SOFTWARE" JUDGE STEPHEN WILSON

In the aftermath of both decisions, the RIAA hinted that it would step up its efforts to pursue individual users.

"We are pleased with the Court's affirmation that individual users are accountable for illegally uploading and downloading copyrighted works off of publicly accessible peer-to-peer networks," said Hilary Rosen, RIAA chief executive. "This is precisely the issue we've been seeking to focus the public's attention on, and yesterday's decision in the Verizon matter makes clear that individual infringers cannot expect to remain anonymous when they engage in this illegal activity."



The show goes on for Morpheus and Grokster after a judge ruled in their favour in the US

Industry fightback

Legal experts believe that the RIAA will be inclined to appeal against the Grokster ruling, then gun for more file-sharing clients.

"I expect we'll see an increase in activity against individuals, but a big effort will probably remain against the providers of these services," said Rupert Battcock, IT lawyer of Nabarro Nathanson (**www.nabarro.com**). "RIAA has joined forces with various major film and music companies and it has ample resources to take Grokster to the Appeal courts and take action against other services."

MP3s set to top the singles chart

DIGITAL MUSIC TO APPEAR ON TOP OF THE POPS AS THE MUSIC INDUSTRY BEGINS TO EMBRACE THE INTERNET

POP-PICKERS WILL soon be able to affect the top 40 singles chart with the music they download from the Net.

In another sign that the MP3 format is being adopted by mainstream culture, the Official UK Chart Company is planning new rundowns which include data from commercial music Web sites. At present they are working on standalone lists, but the company eventually aims to incorporate the information into the main pop countdowns, once fronted by the likes of Bruno Brookes, Fluff Freeman and Mark Goodier.

An Official UK Chart spokesman said: "It's very important for the singles chart to remain relevant." He added, "If a new format is generating considerable sales we have to pick up on that format as well as the more traditional forms. It's a major initiative for us."

Pop pickers could soon be tuning into the MP3 charts

shorts

→ Virgin.net (**www.virgin.net**) has slashed its ADSL charges. The ISP knocked £20 off the price of its broadband starter kit, bringing down the cost of setting up a connection to £59.99. Virgin's DSL service costs £24.99 a month, and it is offering free activation till further notice.

→ The number of people tuning into Internet radio has tripled in the last three years. According to rating agency Aribtron, more than 100 million listeners have now used Web radio, and the number of regular monthly users is growing rapidly. Its popularity has been boosted by sites like **www.radio-locator.com**, which allows listeners to find locally-based Net stations.

Got a news story?
Please contact
James Thornton
Telephone: 01202 209379
Fax: 01202 299955
Email: jamest@paragon.co.uk

Fears over Net suicide pacts

SCOTTISH MAN FOUND HANGED DAYS BEFORE DUE TO STAND TRIAL OVER ONLINE DEATH PACT

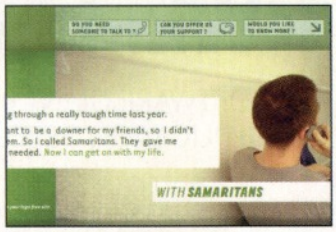
A man accused of engineering a Net suicide pact has been found hanged days before he was due to stand trial.

Louis Gillies, 36, was due to appear in court charged with assisting the suicide of 35-year-old Michael Gooden, who leapt to his death last June after the pair had met through a newsgroup called 'Assisted Suicide Holidays'. After exchanging messages online, the two allegedly arranged to meet in a pub near notorious death-spot Beechy Head, where Gooden's body was later found washed up on a beach.

When Gillies failed to report for his trial at Lewes Crown Court, police visited his Glasgow home where they found him hanged. Judge Anthony Scott-Gall called it "a very bleak ending to a very bleak case."

Gillies' death follows a string of similar Net suicide pacts. Many are concerned that the phenomenon could claim more lives and are urging people to stay away from suicide-related newsgroups and chatrooms.

"Some chat rooms are populated by people offering detailed advice on specific ways for people to take their



Samaritans' advice is to only use sites that you know are reputable and trustworthy

own lives, or even encourage postees to act out their suicidal thoughts," said Sarah Nelson, spokeswoman for Samaritans (**www.samaritans.org.uk**). "It's hard to analyse the identity and motives of people online, so it makes sense to only use sites you know are reputable and trustworthy."

Bidding war

MAN IS FORCED TO PAY £1M FOR GOODS HE 'DIDN'T BID FOR'

A YOUNG GERMAN gardener has been told to stump up nearly £1 million by eBay after winning bids were placed in his name for a luxury mansion, a car and a small plane.

Twenty-two-year-old Thomas Vogel from Munich thought someone was yanking his spade when he received emails from the auction firm telling him he'd been successful in his bids for the goods, totalling £976,000. Vogel told eBay and the police that he had not made any bids for the items, which included a large property worth £830,000, a Mercedes Roadster costing £101,000 and a light aircraft sold for a bargain £27,000.

But eBay says the contracts must be honoured, and the green-fingered Bavarian will face court action from the companies whose products he 'bought'.

"I don't know what I'm going to do or how I'm going to pay. I can't plant that many trees," he pointed out unhappily.

Vogel won't be flying high in his new £27,000 'bargain'

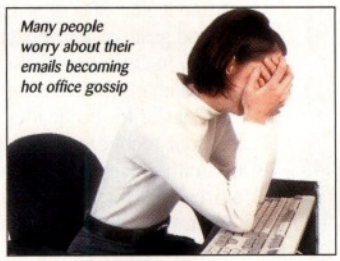
Mail ache

USING EMAIL CAN RUIN YOUR LIFE, SAYS NEW REPORT

THOUSANDS OF NET users are suffering from PPMT – Pre- and Post-mail tension.

That's the verdict of a new report which claims that email is ruining people's personal lives as the result of misunderstandings and fears that private messages could be circulated around the office.

The study of 26,000 email users by Yahoo! Mail reveals that 52 per cent of people struggle to interpret personal emails, 12 per cent admit to having an argument over an email misunderstanding, and 2 per cent say they have



Many people worry about their emails becoming hot office gossip

broken up with a partner over a misinterpreted message.

Meanwhile, 61 per cent of those questioned live in fear of a friend forwarding personal emails which could become hot office gossip.

Helen Petrie, professor of human computer interaction at City University said: "The problem we have of PPMT revealed by these statistics is caused not by email itself, but how people let their anticipation and expectation get the better of them."

The drugs don't work

TEACHER USES THE WEB TO SHOP LOCAL JUNKIES

A SCHOOLTEACHER HAS become so fed up with seeing drug dealers and addicts in his neighbourhood that he's plastered photos of them on the Web.

John Messiter of Camden, North London, decided to secretly snap the drug users and post the pictures online after his appeals to politicians, including PM Tony Blair, failed to stop the problem.

"Over the last two to three years there has been a rapidly deteriorating situation here," said the 37-year-old teacher. I have found drug addicts unconscious in my doorway with needles still stuck in them. I have been spat at, shouted at, attacked and abused."

To see what all the fuss is about, take a look at his pictures on the site at **www.crackcocaineincamden.co.uk**.

Star struck

IT'S WIMBLEDON AGAIN, SO WE'VE HIT THE NET IN SEARCH OF THE TENNIS STARS MAKING THE BIGGEST ONLINE RACQUET

Bjorn Borg

www.bjornborg.20m.com

With a natty taste in headbands, Borg was one of the major sports pin-ups of the Seventies. But Sweden's finest wasn't just a pretty face, winning Wimbledon five times in a row and recording 41 consecutive match victories. This site offers achievements, stats and pictures.

John McEnroe

www.top-biography.com/9256-john%20mcenroe/

No one can deny Mac's genius. This site chronicles the life of a man who won an incredible 77 singles titles and dominated men's tennis in the Eighties. There's also an insight into the teenage champ.

Tim Henman

www.henmagic.freeserve.co.uk

Henmania has spawned a surprising number of Web shrines devoted to Tim's sporting exploits. Henmagic has regularly updated news and tournament schedules, plus a massive array of photos snapped by devoted fans. →

News shorts

→ A pair of hapless armed robbers in Brazil have been nabbed after they were caught on Webcam. Veronica Soares, a 25-year-old teacher, was using a Net chat room when two robbers burst into her home. Her chatroom pal in Montevideo, Uruguay, saw what was happening and alerted cops – who swooped on the house and nicked the not-so-dynamic duo.

→ Anyone in the throes of looking for a new home can now check house price information online. Price details of every home sold in England and Wales since April 2000 can be accessed from the Land Registry site at **www.landregistryonline.gov.uk.**

The service costs £2 a time and is designed to help homebuyers cut delays and paperwork.

NEW Software

FIND OUT ABOUT THE LATEST AND GREATEST INTERNET PROGRAMS

Quicken XG

www.intuit.co.uk

Intuit's Quicken established itself as a leader in financial software some time ago. This latest version hopes to build on its success by encouraging both domestic and professional level accounting. Among its many new features is an online service named 'Advantage' that allows users to connect to bank accounts, view stock information and receive specialist advice. The interface has also been updated to offer flexible customisation and quick view data, along with a 'Guided SetUp' facility for evaluating your financial health.

£59.99

Anonymizer Private Surfing 2.1

www.centurionsoft.com

If you're worried that wrongdoers or just 'big brother' is watching your every move on the Net, this could be for you. Essentially a security tool, Anonymizer blocks any Web tracking by the likes of advertisers, administrators or even hackers. Major privacy threats such as cookies and scripting are covered, with URL and email encryption just a couple of methods used to stop any pests.

£TBA

Corel XMetaL 4

www.corel.com

With four applications, Corel XMetal 4 promotes cross-application XML editing and content re-use. Authors can create documents from interchangeable data chunks and maintain them separately, saving valuable effort. IT managers and end users are also catered for.

£296-£649

→ Microsoft opens up Windows to competitors

SOFTWARE GIANT PLANS TO MAKE PROGRAM CODE MORE AVAILABLE, SO APPLICATION DEVELOPERS CAN IMPROVE THEIR OFFERING TO NET USERS

MICROSOFT IS GIVING its competitors a helping hand after agreeing to hand over secrets about Windows as part of its anti-trust settlement with the US Government.

The company plans to make it cheaper and easier for other software developers to access the code needed for their applications to work well with the Operating System. The decision is the product of months of negotiations between Microsoft and the US Justice Department after Bill Gates' firm was found guilty of abusing its monopoly in Operating Systems.

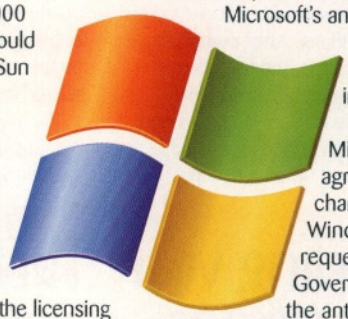
"These changes are designed to make it easier for companies to license our technology," says Brad Smith, Microsoft's senior vice president for law and corporate affairs.

Slicker servers?

Under the new proposals, Microsoft will license internal Windows protocols to help developers create server software that runs better with XP and Windows 2000 Professional. This would allow firms such as Sun Microsystems to compete on a level playing field with Microsoft in the server market.

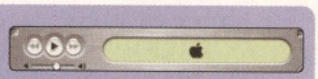
While the Justice Department says the changes will 'substantially revise' the licensing terms for the Microsoft software, many are unconvinced that it will make a difference for consumers.

Ken Wasch, head of the Software and Information Industry Association, told Reuters that, even though he welcomed signs that the anti-trust agreement was being enforced, it "will do little to restore the competitive damage that Microsoft's anti-competitive actions did to the software industry."



Meanwhile, Microsoft has also agreed to make changes to Windows as requested by the Government as part of the anti-trust settlement. These changes are designed to make it easier for consumers to use rival browsers, media players and instant messengers on the OS.

Musical fruit



APPLE DOWNLOAD SERVICE PULLS IN THE PUNTERS IN FIRST WEEKS

WHILE THE MUSIC industry continues to tough it out with file-sharing users, Apple has teamed up with the top record labels to release a new pay-as-you-go music download service.

The company is offering users of its iTunes software the chance to download tunes from the likes of U2, Eminem, Bob Dylan and Sting for 99 cents (62p) a song. The iTunes Music Store features more than 200,000 songs from major labels such as BMG, Sony, Universal and Warner.

After just a week of the service, Apple gleefully announced that some 1 million songs had been purchased, with over half the songs bought as part of albums.

"Consumers don't want to be treated like criminals and artists don't want their valuable work stolen," explained Apple's CEO, Steve Jobs. "The iTunes Music Store offers the revolutionary rights to burn an unlimited number of CDs for personal use."

The service is only available in the US for Mac users at present, although a Windows version is planned for later this year. More details are available from **www.apple.com/itunes.**

Has Apple struck a decisive blow in the battle for subscription-based music?

STAT ATTACK

Top ten online populations worldwide in millions

1. United States (168.6)
2. Japan (56)
3. China (45.8)
4. Germany (41.8)
5. United Kingdom (30.4)
6. Italy (25.3)
7. Brazil (19.7)
8. Spain (17)
9. France (16.97)
10. Canada (16.84)

Source: CyberAtlas Internet Statistics (cyberatlas.internet.com)

→

V21 STANDARD

£13.99

224 Hours pm

4 Hour cut off
you can redial straight away

Technical Support
at low National Rate call costs

Support for modem
standards upto V90 & 64k ISDN

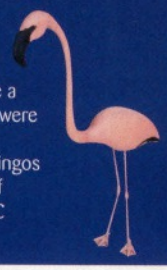
Online account management
via secure control panel

VISIT: www.v21.co.uk or call the sign up hotline on:

0800 089 21 21

News

shorts



→ The BBC's Sound Effects department has come a long way since the days when two coconut halves were used to simulate a horse. Web users can now download sounds such as grazing wildebeest, flamingos at dawn or atmospheres from the narrow streets of Wuhan in China. You'll find 165 CD's worth of BBC sound effects at **www.sound-effects-library.com**

→ If your office's corporate firewall has put paid to your instant messaging antics, why not check out Lycos' new Web-based interoperable instant messenger service? Lycos Messenger allows users to chat online without having to download any software and lets users chinwag with pals on MSN and Yahoo! IM clients. To find out more, visit **messenger.lycos.co.uk**.

Net watch

INTERNET FREEDOM'S **CHRIS ELLISON** MONITORS THE LATEST ONLINE DEVELOPMENTS

LAST MONTH I mentioned Lorenzo Wood had set up a Web poll to find out what people in Britain thought about the war with Iraq. In the end only 135 voted. With over 40 million on the UK electoral register, this represents roughly 0.0003% of the population. Wood's hope to get a more representative alternative to Tony Blair's presumptions failed due to 'negligible participation'.

Through this experiment we have a snapshot of politics in the Internet age. Many people are cynical and suspicious of politicians and political institutions, believing their voices are being ignored. But they feel there's nothing they can

"THROUGH THIS EXPERIMENT WE HAVE A SNAPSHOT OF POLITICS IN THE INTERNET AGE"

do beyond the occasional display of discontent. The negligible virtual turnout in Wood's poll reinforces the notion that few people believe there could be any significant consequence – just as the turnout in the last General Election was the lowest since the First World War. The Net, for all its potential, can do nothing to reverse this trend.

That's not to say it hasn't played a significant part in the venting of frustrations. According to US firm Internet Security Systems Inc, the number of hacking attacks has increased by 37 per cent since last year. Hacked sites include the White House, Tony Blair, the Green Party and the Al-Jazeera Arab TV site. If you feel no one's listening, this attempt to gain an audience may seem a good idea. It's easier to change someone's home page than their mind. But this virtual graffiti is self-defeating. It assumes no one can be won over, and refusing to engage in debate only serves to guarantee that no-one will listen.

Internet Freedom can be contacted on ***campaign@netfreedom.org****. The campaign's Web site is at* ***www.netfreedom.org***

→Instant messaging users getting the message

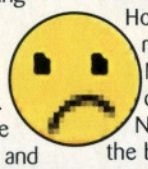
INSTANT MESSAGING IS SET TO BECOME BIGGER THAN SMS… UNLESS WHIP-CRACKING BOSSES GET THEIR WAY

INSTANT MESSAGING USE is set to overtake SMS in the popularity stakes within the next year.

By April 2004 there will be more instant messages sent every day than SMS messages, according to MSN, which runs one of the world's most popular instant messaging services. Already 8.7 million people in Britain use instant messaging and MSN reckons that the industry will grow by as much as 50 per cent, to top 13 million users within the next 12 months.

"Instant Messenger is growing like wildfire and purely as a result of word of mouth," said Tracy Blacher, MSN's consumer marketing manager. "About a third of people on the Internet are using this service, and as with SMS, it is being driven by 16- to 30-year-olds."

Instant message users start an average of five conversations every day, which by MSN's reckoning, means that there are 43 million IM conversations going on daily in the UK. By next year, the company thinks this figure will be closer to 90 million conversations a day – 30 million greater than the number of SMS messages currently being sent.



Sending out an SOS

However, not all instant messaging companies share MSN's optimism. Yahoo! is concerned that companies' Net usage policies could put the brakes on the instant communications revolution. The company is so worried in fact, that it has launched a 'Save our Smiley' campaign, designed to help lift restrictions on instant messaging in the workplace.

Yahoo! is tapping millions of its instant messaging users, asking them to shop companies that outlaw the software. It then plans to approach these firms to try and sell its enterprise IM service to their IT departments.

Hillary Mickell, senior director of marketing for Yahoo!'s Enterprise Solutions division said: "We have been seeing that there is a trend emerging to block Messenger within corporations because of security and control concerns."

Hoax of the month

AUSSIES GO POTTY OVER NEW HARRY BOOK – BUT HANG ON, IT'S NOT OUT YET…

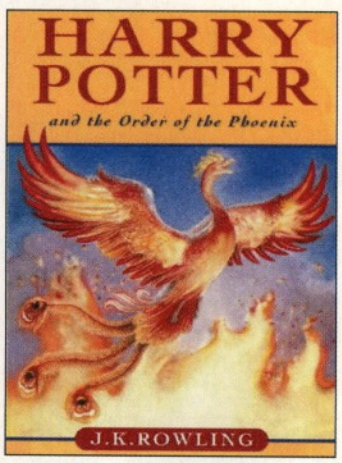
BOOKWORMS IN AUSTRALIA have been burying their heads in the latest book in the Harry Potter series weeks before it's due to go on sale.

The wizard-loving cobbers have been snapping up the long-awaited *Order of the Phoenix* in droves after it went on sale on an Aussie Web site. Given that the book doesn't hit the shelves until 21 June, how did they get hold of it so early?

As it turns out, this isn't the work of some kind of Antipodean magic, but a good old-fashioned hoax. If the Net-savvy bookworms had bothered to check the first lines of the book revealed by JK Rowling's publishers in January, they would have realised that the works they purchased bear no relation to the real thing.

"There are quite a few fakes out there," explained Rowling's lawyer, Neil Blair. "Sometimes they have JK's name on them, which is potentially damaging. I find that quite annoying – we've got to take action."

Last year, an anonymous Chinese author released the fake *Harry Potter and Leopard Walk Up to Dragon* under Rowling's name and managed to shift over a million copies in Beijing street markets.



Harry Potter doesn't head back to school for another adventure until 21 June this year

Phone-y felony

COURTROOM DRAMA OVER ILLEGAL PHOTOGRAPHS

A SNAP-HAPPY member of the public has been fined for taking courtroom photos on his mobile phone.

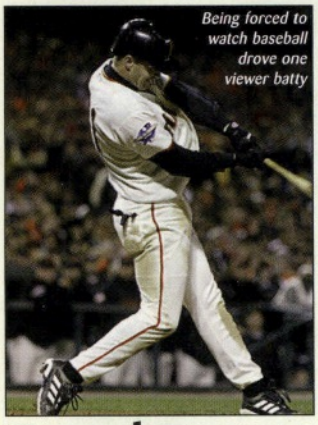
Gavin Hughes, a gallery spectator, was hauled before Merthyr Tydfil magistrates in South Wales after a supervising officer spotted him. Officials revealed that Hughes had been keen to grab shots of a defendant sat in the dock and was reprimanded in contempt of court.

Courtroom photos are prohibited by law, so the cheeky cameraman was immediately summoned by the Judge to 'cop' a 250 quid fine.

Makes you wonder if sketching on a PDA would've been okay...

→ Remember the film *Weird Science*, where two nerdy lads create the woman of their dreams using their computer? Thanks to SpeedDater's (**www.speeddater.co.uk**) new 'DreamGirl' facility, you can do the same. The dating site allows you to fashion your perfect love-match by choosing from a selection of hairstyles, eyes, noses, mouths and chins. Don't worry ladies, there's also a 'DreamBoy' section for you to conjure up a virtual hunk.

→ You might not have thought much of the birds in the last series of *Big Brother*, but you'll be suitably impressed with the tasty chicks on Norway's latest online reality show. Set up by artist Magne Klann, the site lets viewers check out the comings and goings of his feathered friends after he erected a Webcam inside a birdhouse in Oslo. You can marvel at the winged wonders at **www.piip-show.no.**



Being forced to watch baseball drove one viewer batty

Road Rage

RACING NUT FLOODS TV STATION WITH HALF A MILLION EMAILS

SICK OF SOME of the rubbish they stick on the telly? A motor racing fan in America has bombarded a TV station with more than half a million emails because it showed a baseball game instead of a race.

Michael Melo of Billerica, Boston, was incensed when Fox Entertainment broadcast a Boston Red Sox game rather than the NASCAR race he had tuned in to watch.

In fact he was so miffed by the whole episode that he designed a program that repeatedly sent the same six emails to the station's offices in LA over a period of a few days. His actions forced the Fox network to close down part of its site.

Melo's lawyer, Andrew Good, says he intends to plead guilty to damaging a protected computer system, a charge which carries a maximum of a year's imprisonment.

According to a federal complaint, the messages were sent through the company's Boston-area affiliate by the computer worker, who has no previous criminal convictions.

"There was no intention to cause any of this damage and the Government isn't claiming he did," explained Mr Good. "It happened, but it was produced by machines running wild. He's sorry it happened, obviously."

Don't get even, get Madge...

ATTEMPT TO THWART DISTRIBUTION BACKFIRES AS MADONNA'S OFFICIAL SITE IS SABOTAGED

THE FILE-SHARING war within the music industry has taken another twist, with Madonna's official site sabotaged by irate hackers.

Users of networks such as KaZaA have been disgruntled following Madge's attempt to thwart distribution of her new material by posting dummy downloads. Those hoping to snatch snippets from the artist's latest *American Life* album have been treated instead to a furious four-letter message, recorded by the pop queen herself.

The measure backfired when official site Madonna.com was attacked, and abusive retorts posted. Metal giant Metallica suffered a similar fate when it famously spoke out against pioneering music swapper Napster. This latest incident just adds to a list of battles.

No comment can be found on the newly repaired URL, although Morgan Webb, a TechTV (**www.techtv.com**) presenter who was proposed to in bizarre messages said: "Madonna was trying to put one over on the kids... and they in turn wanted to let her know she's not in as much control as she thinks she is."

Ironically, this happened in the wake of label Warner Brothers giving Madonna fans the chance to purchase official MP3s online.

Angry messages from the pop queen did not charm fans

One small step for Asimo

LIFELIKE HONDA DROID TAKES CENTRE STAGE AT THIS YEAR'S ROBODEX FAIR

HONDA HAS AGAIN wowed the crowds at this year's Robodex fair in Yokohama with its incredible Asimo robot.

Standing 120 centimetres tall, this lifelike droid is capable of face recognition and will personally greet whoever it remembers meeting.

Thanks to revolutionary motion technology that allows it to walk, dance and climb stairs independently, Asimo has become a household name following numerous TV endorsements.

Unfortunately, Honda has no plans for commercial production and at a hire rate of £105,000 per year, punters such as Frenchman Pierre Hess may be disappointed. "I don't know how useful a robot like Asimo is, but I wouldn't mind having one at home for the kids," he explained.

The show continued to capture robot fans' imagination with other chirpy chipsters, including Sony's bug-eyed ballet dancing SDR-4X and a domestic security pet shaped like a dinosaur. 'Banryu', from the Tmsuk corporation, is a Jurassic-styled rug crawler which patrols the house for suspicious happenings or fire.

Again, retailing at over £10,000, this perpetual pet isn't cheap, but its ability to automatically alert emergency services or beam burglary pics to your mobile has huge potential.

This could quite literally leave future crooks asking "do-you-think-he-saurus?"

WORLD CLASS SOLUTIONS

ADSL Broadband
- FAST 5 working day activation
- FREE Email Account
- FREE Web Hosting
- FREE Backup Dialup Account
- MAJOR price reductions

Web Hosting from £49.00 p.a.
- FREE Domain Name included
- Free Unlimited Use Of Dial-Up Facility
- 50MB of webspace
- 20 Email POP3 Accounts
- MANY more benefits, too many to list check our website for FULL details

Virtual ISP from £100.00 p.a.
- YOUR OWN Branded Holding Pages, Branded Logs & Statistics, Branded WebMail Facility
- Free Unlimited Use Of Dial-Up Facility
- Virtual Control Panel Facility
- Automated Domain Store !!!
- MANY more benefits, too many to list check our website for FULL details

Dedicated & CoLo from £89.00 p.m.
- Dedicated Servers. We can offer you the full solution when it comes to owning your own dedicated system. From supply & build right up to backup and support.
- Co-Located Servers. Why not co-locate your own server with us and reap the benefits? Connected to our fast Cisco routed network infrastructure your server will benefit from our extensive services.

telephone 0870 741 5898
facsimile 0870 741 5899
internet http://eliteukserve.net
email sales@eliteukserve.net

EliteUKServe.Net

iCandy

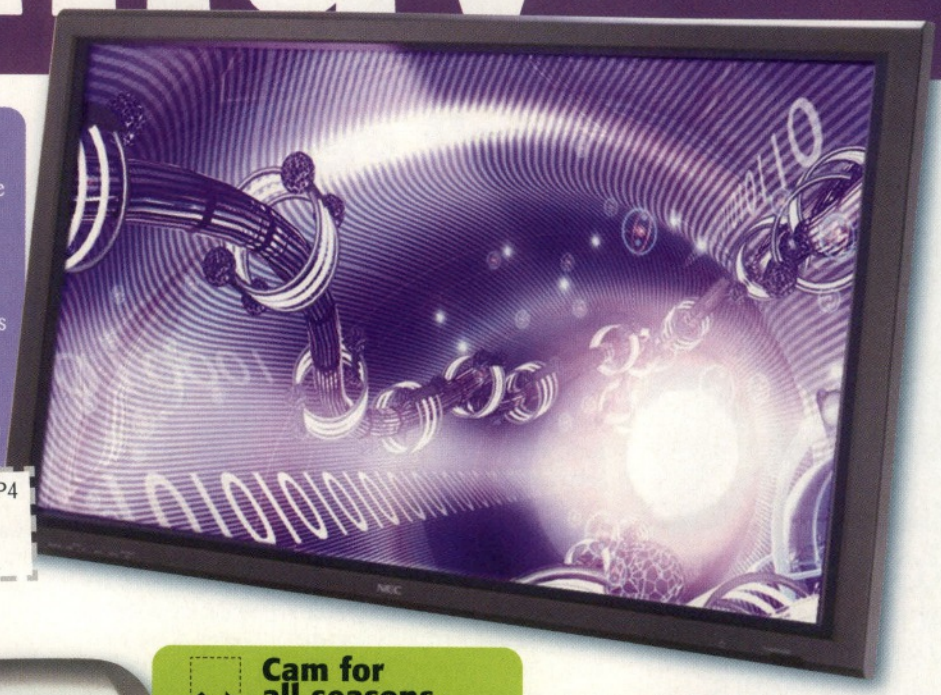
Feast your eyes on this lot

As seen on screen

Want the ultimate Web browsing experience? Then why not erect one of these huge plasma screens in your front room and rig it up to your machine. The PlasmaSync represents 42 inches of pure viewing pleasure and the new 42VP4 claims to be the quietest around, as no cooling fans are used. Marking a major breakthrough for impressive presentations and video display, the screen makes use of AccuDevice digital technology for a sharper, brighter and more vivid experience.

Product: NEC PlasmaSync 42VP4
URL: www.nec.co.uk
Telephone: 0845 234 4040

£4,694



Cam for all seasons

As we head into the notorious British summer time, we should start bracing ourselves for deluges, hailstorms and blizzards. Horrendous weather conditions would normally force digital photographers to stay indoors, yet owners of the three-megapixel Olympus Mju 300 Digital are free to brave all conditions, as the device claims to be the first weatherproof metal body digital camera in the world.

Product: Olympus Mju 300 Digital
URL: www.olympus.co.uk
Telephone: 0800 072 0070

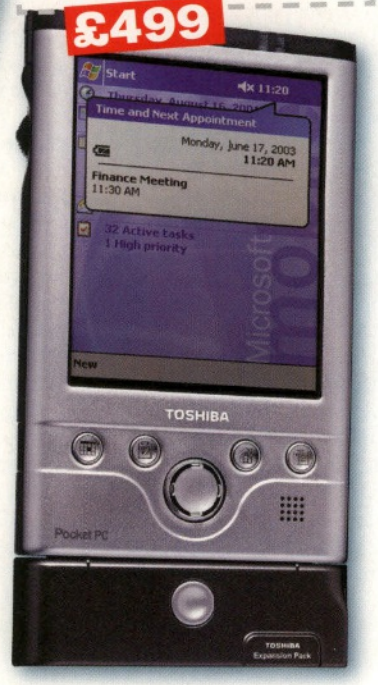
£349.99

Pocket honey

Thanks to the influx of wireless devices, no one is tethered to their desks any more. Toshiba's gorgeous new Pocket PC boasts on-board wireless LAN, meaning users can stay hooked up to their office network while ambling around the building, then once away from base, can connect to the Net via wireless Hot Spots. With a new Intel PXA255 processor, the e750 promises to be more than capable of high-speed browsing and video streaming.

Product: Toshiba e750 Pocket PC
URL: www.toshiba.co.uk
Telephone: 0870 444 8944

£499



Easy does it

Designed for free-spirited Net users, Packard Bell's latest notebook allows you to surf the Web and send emails from wherever you get the urge. The ultra slim, lightweight EasyNote T features Intel Centrium Mobile Technology and boasts extended battery life so you can keep going for longer, and can be rigged up to wireless-enabled devices such as scanners and printers for ultimate freedom.

Product: Packard Bell EasyNote T
URL: www.packardbell.co.uk
Telephone: N/A

£349.99

Extreme ports

Wireless networking fans better buckle their seatbelts because the AirPort Extreme utilises the latest Wi-Fi technology to deliver super-fast results. The Apple device is based on the supersonic new 802.11g standard, enabling it to attain speeds of up to 54 Mbps, which equates to around five times the data rate of the current 802.11b standard.

Product: AirPort Extreme
URL: www.apple.com/uk
Telephone: 0800 039 1010

£149

Lost and found

Ever feel like you're on a road to nowhere? This crafty piece of kit will help you out of any tight spot, turning your Bluetooth-enabled Pocket PC into a complete navigation system. The GPS Navigation Kit comes with Socket's MyNavigator personal routing software, allowing it to detect where you are and provide audible turn-by-turn instructions to get you where you want to go.

Product: Socket Bluetooth GPS Navigation Kit
URL: www.socketcom.com
Telephone: 0033 47656 8999

£376

Cam you dig it?

Technology has enabled TV news reporters to broadcast live video footage of breaking events from their mobile computers, but why should these roving hacks have all the fun? This stylish Webcam from Veo is specifically designed for use with laptops, allowing users to clip the device onto the screen. The compact cam even comes with a two-year limited hardware warranty.

Product: Veo Mobile Connect Digital PC
URL: www.veo.com
Email: sales-euro@veo.com

£59.99

Cutting edge

Chops away! Believe it or not, this cutting board is no ordinary kitchen utensil and it hides an amazing secret. In fact, it's actually an Internet-enabled chopping block which allows you to download recipes from the Web then display them on the board itself. The concept device, paraded by a Brunel University design graduate at this year's Ideal Home Show, uses sensor technology to produce a seam-free surface. It's enough to make Keith Floyd spill his Chardonnay.

Product: Internet Enabled Kitchen Cutting Board
URL: www.brunel.ac.uk
Telephone: N/A

£TBA

FASTRACK
provided by NetScheme Ltd

Superior Web Hosting and Design

Telephone
08707 42 42 92
Fax
08707 42 42 93
Accounts
08707 42 42 94
Sales
08707 42 42 95
Support
08707 42 42 96
www.fastrack.co.uk

Dial-up and Broadband Access

Connection fee waived if you sign up for a 2 year contract

Home500 Connection for £27.99 per month

Call us for further details
08707 42 42 95

Web-Design

Top Quality Sites from new or revamps of existing

Also scripting and graphic services available

Web-Hosting and Domain Registrations

Hosting plans to suit all sizes and budgets

Domain Registrations from 50 different extensions

Cheap rates for charities and non-profit organisations

"Take the Fastrack to all your web solutions"
sales@fastrack.co.uk
08707 42 42 95

Backchat

Email the editor at pi@paragon.co.uk

EMAIL US:
pi@paragon.co.uk

WRITE TO US:
PRACTICAL INTERNET,
PARAGON PUBLISHING,
ST PETER'S ROAD,
BOURNEMOUTH,
BH1 2JS

LETTER OF THE MONTH

Seriously accessible

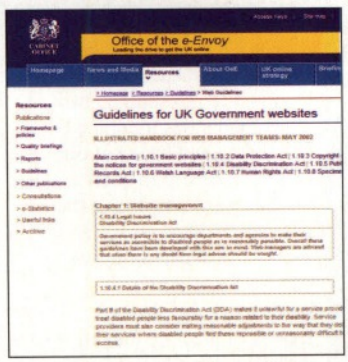
I HAVE ENJOYED reading your magazine for a while now and think it has some very useful tips. However, I really think that the topic of accessibility should be taken more seriously. In issue 79 there is an introductory article that is helpful but it does not mention the legislation that is around which is going to have a fundamental effect on all Web sites. In fact, James Seabright, in reply to a letter on page 72, says there is none. How wrong can you be?

I'm not talking about the USA and its section 508 here, although it is taking legal action against non-US companies for Internet infringements of other US laws. Nor am I talking about Australia where the Sydney Organising Committee for the Olympic Games soon found out that Australia's Disability Discrimination Act 1992 covers Web sites to the tune of $20,000 thanks to Bruce Lindsay Maguire. I'm talking here about the UK Disability Discrimination Act 1995 Part III. Section 19(3) identifies 'access to and use of means of communication' and 'access to and use of information services' as examples of services which would be covered by the Act. This certainly includes training companies, TV and Web sites.

Schools, local education authorities, colleges and universities were only loosely covered by Part IV of the DDA. They are now fully covered by the Special Educational Needs and Disability Act 2001 and changes to Part IV of the DDA. These now mean that education and training providers have a legal obligation to meet the needs of people with disabilities, and this has been in force since 1 September 2002. Most other service providers have until October 2004 to get their houses in order. It won't be long before there is a case here like Maguire v SOCOG in Australia and then the lawyers will really start getting their teeth in. Solicitors' adverts on TV will not just be for accident claims.

I suggest readers visit the eEnvoy's guidelines for Government sites at **www.eenvoy.gov.uk/oee/oee.nsf/sections/webguidlines-content/$file/04.htm** and **www.e-envoy.gov.uk/oee/oee.nsf/sections/webguidelines-handbook-management/$file/104.htm**. The Disability Rights Commissions access options is at **www.drc.org.uk/accessoptions/index.asp**

Dave Brinkman



Visit the Office of the eEnvoy for guidelines regarding UK Government Web sites

Accessibility is one of those subjects that has taken a while to capture the public's imagination. We think a lot of the initial resistance came from people's innate desire to fight against anything they've been told to do. We've always tried to inform people of the latest developments with regards to accessibility, though, and we're keen to ensure that our readers know of any rule changes as soon as they happen. We've actually got a six-page accessibility special starting on page 54 this month, so there's no excuse for anyone to miss out any more.

Rock till you drop

Thanks for the informative supplement on hosting (with *PI* 79). But here's an issue about 'future-proofing your site' which I haven't seen addressed anywhere. Most hosts want a yearly fee, and a dot uk domain name needs to be renewed every two years. What happens when your Webmaster will be looking at 60 candles on his next birthday cake? I'm not going to be around forever to pay those bills.

That's why we stick with the (shall we be polite and say 'limited') hosting provided by Geocities. It's a modest site devoted to our days as Sixties Liverpool rockers. No Flash animations and few updates (other than obituaries). But at least we know that it may still be there after we've all gone.

Any thoughts on an alternative solution, you youngsters?

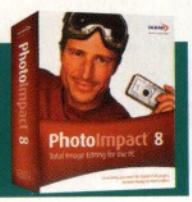
David

You've raised some interesting points, David, although we can't help but feel that your outlook on life is somewhat

WIN A PRIZE

Not only do you get the immense satisfaction of having your letter printed in the UK's fastest growing Internet magazine, but every month one of our letter writers wins a great prize. Yes, if you write in to us at the address above, you stand a chance of winning a copy of PhotoImpact 8, Ulead's envelope-pushing graphics package.

We reviewed PhotoImpact 8 in Issue 74, and loved it so much that we awarded it the coveted *Practical Internet* Star Buy award. Worth a cool £89.99, this is one of the best image manipulation programs around. To find out more about PhotoImpact 8, pop along to www.ulead.co.uk or phone 01327 844755.

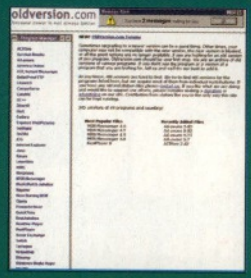


Reader's tip

Golden oldies

I get really annoyed when I excitedly install the newest version of one of my favourite programs, only to find out that the previous version was much better. I won't mention any names, but there are a few programs that have done this to me. A mate told me about a great site that lets you indulge your software nostalgia by installing older versions of current programs. It goes by the name of oldversion.com, and you'll find it at **www.oldversion.com.**

David Dodds



Your letters

Neverending story...

THE WAY TO stand out on a newsagent's shelf is NOT to cave in to half naked totty on the cover. Be bold! Be original! Have pictures of *PI* Editor Thomas Watson in his pants on the front cover and you can go with: "Buy *Practical Internet* or next time he's naked!" Trust me, sadly exploited naked babes are so old everybody has died of boredom.

Anonymous

YOU ASKED WHAT we thought of scantily clad girls on the cover of *PI*?

Well, I'm female and a computer geek, and I really don't mind having girlies on the magazine cover. It's what's inside that interests me, and it's a media fact that a pretty girl draped over something will help to sell it.

That said, I heartily agree with Carol Skinner. I think it's way past time us lady computer geeks got a look-in too. Fair's fair :) Nothing too young and unseasoned though, eh? A dark, tanned, muscular man of about 40, with some light streaks of grey hair at his temples would make this geek's day. If you're too chicken to put him on the cover, I'll happily accept a double-page spread :)

GillyH

After several months, we're closing the debate on whether or not Issue 77's cover was the best or the worst thing ever. Just before we tie it up, here's a picture of just the kind of man Gilly would like to see adorning the covers of *Practical Internet* in future. Mmm mmm!

pessimistic. The Net's not all about youngsters, you know, and we can't see any reason why a 60-year-old should avoid buying two-year domain names. Are any other readers worried about losing their Web presence when the great rocker in the sky calls on them? If so, let us know what you think.

Save their bacon

Hi, I am Danish and enjoy your magazine a lot. I came across an old article yesterday in issue 52 under 'News in Brief' regarding savivo.co.uk helping charities in the UK. I tried the site but there was nothing on it.

I have seen a similar concept on **www.search2help.org.**

Keep up the good work

Frank Vang

Alas, the Savivo site has died in the two years since issue 52 came out, but the search2help site seems like a perfect replacement to us. Cheers, Frank.

Would you Adam and Eve it?

Hi, my Web site is entitled The Cockneyizer (**www.cockneyizer.com**). It's a site that lets you translate other sites into Cockney Rhyming Slang. In addition, you can also send Cockney emails to your friends, translate plain text into slang and translate famous quotes. The results are amusing to say the least! This Web site appeals to a broad base of UK and world readers, and I thought you might want to share it with them!

Thomas Bowler

That really is a Robin Hood site, and anyone wiv a bit ov Eighteen Pence in their mind'll know what we're talkin' about. In fact, we Rubber Glove dis site, so Hairy Knees don't ever Rifle Range it, or we'll 'ave ter take us comments back.

All kinds of marketing

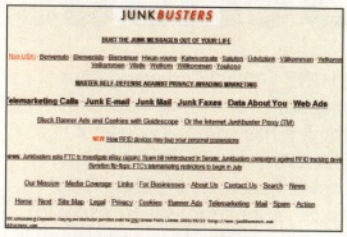
Just wanted to write and thank you for a very helpful magazine. With your assistance I have learned how to improve my Web design skills and it's also interesting to see Web design from both the retailers and customer's point of view. My sites now strictly follow the 'three-clicks' rule: if what a customer wants can't be found in three clicks or less, the site is unnecessarily big.

Anyway, I also wanted to pass on the URL of a Web site I found courtesy of BBC News. It's a site aimed at telling Web users how to avoid being spammed and how to combat spam if you are unfortunate enough to become afflicted with it. There's also information on dealing with junk mail, (the several pounds of it that arrive with the Sunday papers), telemarketing, junk faxes, etc. It is written from an American perspective but the information would still be useful. The URL is **www.junkbusters.com.**

I hope some readers may find this useful and thank you once again for your very informative magazine!

Peter Butler

Cheers for the nod, Peter. The JunkBusters site does indeed have a gamut of information on virtually every kind of marketing mail you could ever imagine. Keep busting the junk...



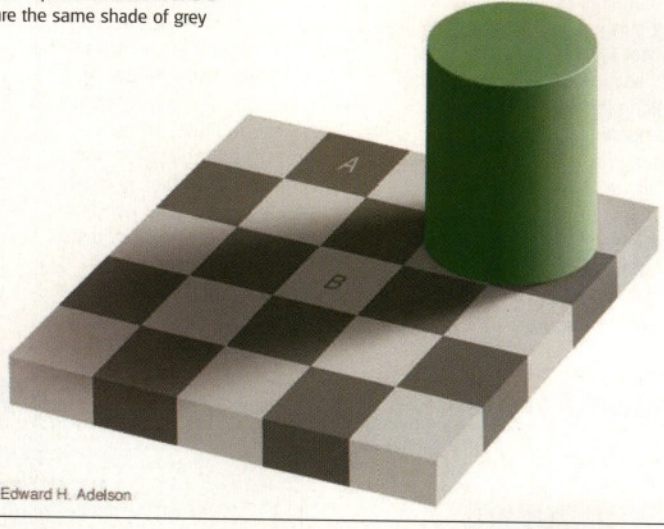
Go to the JunkBusters site to find out how to avoid and combat spam

Attachment of the month

DAVID REYNOLDS WAS kind enough to send us two attachments this month. The first would have got our Editor a nice trip to court, but the second is one of the best optical illusions we've seen. We've tested this with the eyedropper in Photoshop, and the two shades of grey are indeed the same. Weird.

Have you picked up a hilarious or strange email attachment? Would you like to share it with your fellow *Practical Internet* readers? Send it to pi@paragon.co.uk with the subject header 'Attachment of the month'. We'll print the best one in the mag each month.

The squares marked A and B are the same shade of grey



Edward H. Adelson

inkjet cartridges
save
Special Offers on
Hewlett Packard,
Canon, Epson,
Lexmark etc
www.2ink.co.uk
UK's best deals from Europe's no.1
on-line supplier for inkjet cartridges
FREE UK DELIVERY
0800 9174073

GREAT DEALS FROM EUROPE'S NO. 1 WEB HOST

Home&BusinessHosting S

Web hosting packages from 1&1 – everything you need under one roof

GET THESE FEATURES WITH 1&1 WEB HOSTING

60-DAY MONEY BACK GUARANTEE
Test drive 1&1 without any risk. We give a 60-day unconditional money back guarantee. No questions asked. (Excl. domain reg. fees)

7,000 MBIT CONNECTIVITY
With connections to nine leading carriers, and the LINX Exchange London, 1&1 offers the fastest network connectivity in the UK

OWN £15M DATA CENTRES
The latest hardware from Compaq, Cisco and Juniper ensures superior speed and guaranteed 99.9% server uptime

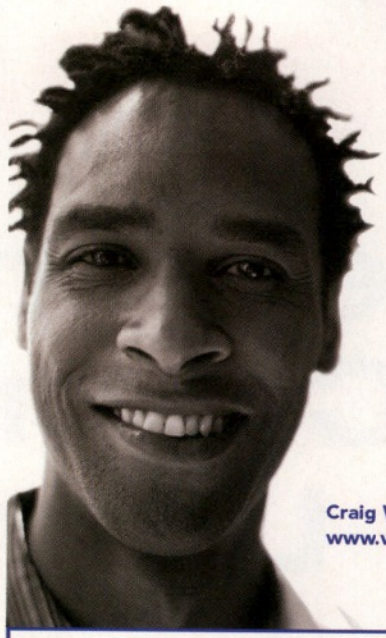
FREE EXPRESS SUPPORT
Free express support by phone, email, live online and now 0800 24/7 Emergency Support available for Professional package & Servers

FREE 1&1 WEBSITECREATOR
No HTML skills needed! By following seven simple steps you can build a fantastic, interactive website in just 20 minutes

FREE WEBMAIL & VIRUS SCANNER
Send and receive emails anywhere over the web. Always up to date protection from Symantec Virus Scanner for incoming mail

FREE CONTROL PANEL
Manage your website, email addresses, domain name settings and more with 1&1's live web-based Control Panel

"1&1 was definitely the right choice. I trust 1&1 to keep my site live, fast and fully featured for Vibin Music. It's all about access"



Craig Wood – 1&1 customer
www.vibinmusic.co.uk

VIBIN
HOME | The Music | Features | Vibin The Night | JR's Korner | Links | Contact | About | Credits |
ARTIST FEATURE
FEATURED ARTIST
promo
CARTEL
march 2003 edition

1&1 is No.1 in Europe

- 3 Data Centres – £15m investment
- Network powered by Cisco & Juniper
- 950 employees
- 100+ in-house developers
- 7,000Mbit connectivity
- 2,500 customers join 1&1 every day

10 Years' Experience

- 3,300,000 domains registered
- 8.25 million emails handled daily
- 28,000 eShops hosted in Europe already
- 2,300,000 accounts
- 10,000 servers up and running
- 99.9% server uptime guaranteed

One-stop Shop for Web Solutions

- Instant Domain Name Registration eg .co.uk £1.99/year
- Use your domain now with Domain Mail Plus £6.99/year
- Turnkey eShops from £9.99
- Innovative Dedicated Servers from £29
- Upgrade to our compelling packages at any time
- Visit OneAndOne.co.uk for more details

@-DOMAINS - NEW AND EXCLUSIVE TO 1&1

olutions from 1&1

1&1 is Europe's leading hosting company with 10 years' experience in providing reliable, robust and secure web hosting solutions. Whether you're creating your first website, or building a complex database-driven online store, you can trust 1&1 to deliver the perfect package, with upgrade options as your requirements grow.

CHOOSE FROM THESE GREAT WEB HOSTING PACKAGES

FUTURE UK INTERNET AWARDS 2002 Best Business Web Host

UK's Best Business and Consumer Web Host 2002

26,000 readers of .NET, PC Plus, Internet Works and Internet Advisor have decided that 1&1 is the UK's best consumer and business web host for the second consecutive year.

FUTURE UK INTERNET AWARDS 2002 Best Business Web Host

STARTERS *PACKAGE*	HOME *PACKAGE*	BUSINESS *PACKAGE*	PROFESSIONAL *PACKAGE*
A complete, yet simple solution to create your own website, with email accounts included.	**A comprehensive hosting solution for home users with everything you need and exceptional value for money.**	**An outstanding hosting solution for your business with features you would only expect in more expensive packages.**	**A superior hosting solution for the more demanding high-end user seeking maximum power, flexibility and security.**
• WebsiteCreator online tool • 15 POP3 email accounts • Virus scanning for 1 POP3 account	• Free @-Domains • Full FTP access • 50 POP3 email accounts • 200MB web space • FrontPage 2002 Extensions (.NET) • Virus scanning for 1 POP3 account	• Free @-Domains • 200 POP3 email accounts • 600MB web space • 10,000MB monthly traffic included • mysql & MS Access (.NET) • FrontPage 2002 Extensions • Virus scanning for 3 POP3 accounts	• Free @-Domains • 1,000 POP3 email accounts • 1,200MB web space • 40,000MB monthly traffic included • SSL secure server • SSH Secure Shell access • FrontPage 2002 Extensions • Virus scanning for 10 POP3 accounts • 2 x mysql, MS SQL (.NET) & MS Access (.NET)
1&1 ALL INCLUSIVE HOSTING **£1.99**	1&1 ALL INCLUSIVE HOSTING **£4.99**	1&1 ALL INCLUSIVE HOSTING **£8.99**	1&1 ALL INCLUSIVE HOSTING **£16.99**
For many more great features, visit OneAndOne.co.uk	Microsoft® Windows® Powered **£5.99**	Microsoft® Windows® Powered **£9.99**	Microsoft® Windows® Powered **£19.99**

Total prices per month +VAT
One-off set-up fee £9.99

NEW FEATURE @-DOMAINS - Sub Domains Without the Hassle

@-Domains is a simple way of structuring your website. You can now create a separate site for each family member or topic & product in the same domain. The key is in the URL which is the same as your email address so it's always easy to remember: E.g. shop@myDomain.com is all you need to type into the browser to go straight into your own personal website. This innovation is only available at 1&1.

£400 FREE SOFTWARE

NEW NetObjects FUSION 7, Photo Impact 8 SE and more

(excludes Starters Package)

1&1

OneAndOne.co.uk **08708 503305**

BEAT NET RIP-OFFS

TIRED OF PAYING OVER THE ODDS FOR YOUR GOODS? **NICK SWEENEY** EXPLAINS HOW TO BEAT 'RIP-OFF BRITAIN' AND AVOID DODGY DEALS ONLINE

If you've ever come back from a continental day-trip with a boot-load of cheap plonk, or loaded up on cut-price CDs and jeans after a weekend in New York, you'll know all too well that the tabloid talk of 'rip-off Britain' has a ring of truth. In past decades, most people were unaware of the difference in prices from nation to nation – and even if they knew they were being ripped off, they were unable to do anything about it.

However, things are changing. The growth in foreign travel struck the first blow against Britain's rip-off culture, allowing people to see that they were being charged 'luxury' prices at home for the everyday goods they found abroad. And in recent years, the Net has been at the vanguard of a consumer revolution, both as a means of educating consumers and by making it easy for them to seek out the best deal, whether from a local supplier or more distant shores.

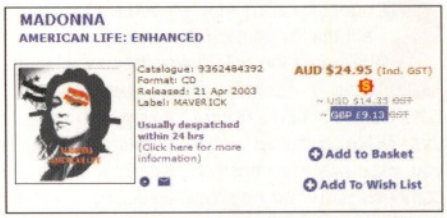
The only problem comes from working out whether that online bargain really is too good to be true: with so many people looking online for the best price, it can be all too easy to fall prey to scam artists. But don't worry – follow our tips for beating the rip-off merchants, and the next time you splash the cash you'll be glad you kept reading!

Rip-off Britain

As an island nation shielded from its continental and transatlantic neighbours, Britain has long suffered higher prices for a wide range of goods. This has become more apparent since the introduction of the euro and also in the wake of a series of court cases preventing supermarkets from selling on European 'grey imports' of designer goods. The pressure to keep prices high comes from two sources: the Treasury, and suppliers and retailers wanting to maintain the image of their goods as 'luxuries'. Booze-cruisers know all too well that most of the cost of a bottle of wine goes to the public purse, and that buying abroad makes the most of low excise duty rates on the continent. This doesn't help online shoppers: UK Customs & Excise (**www.hmce.gov.uk**) are alert to Net sales of alcohol and tobacco, and if you save money even with the cost of shipping, you're still likely to receive a hefty bill from Her Majesty's Inspectors before you can even pick up your parcel.

DRIVE DOWN YOUR COSTS

The laws are a little less strict when it comes to buying cars from the continent. Sites such as **www.oneswoop.com**, **www.broadspeed.com** and **www.virgincars.com** do much of the work for you in locating European dealers who'll order UK-ready models. Online car sales expose some of the craziness still at work inside the supposed 'single European market': someone in Sunderland can save hundreds of pounds by ordering a right-hand-drive Nissan Micra from a Dutch showroom, flying over to pick it up, then driving it back home – past the factory where it was made!



Australian music and DVD sites are good value right now because of the exemption from GST/VAT and the strength of the pound

BORN IN THE USA

The biggest shock comes from comparing British prices to those in the USA. There are well-known differences that not even the Net can help – petrol is four times cheaper for Americans, but for one thing, there's a big advantage for online retailers based in the US, compared even to shops at the local mall: they don't have to charge sales tax on orders shipped out of the state where they're based. Factor in the lower running costs, tighter margins and larger customer base of US retailers, as well as the excise duty and VAT charged to UK importers, and a pretty big gap opens up.

FEEL THE DIFFERENCE

There's a greater sense of injustice with items such as CDs and DVDs, where it's easier to feel the difference in your wallet by ordering online from abroad. Ever since Amazon.com opened its digital doors, British customers have been saving money on music and movies by buying from the US, even with the shipping factored in. Australian music and DVD sites like **www.hmv.com.au** are also very good value right now because of the exemption from GST/VAT, and the relative strength of the pound against the Aussie dollar. Again, be aware of the UK customs threshold on mail-order goods from outside the EU, currently set to £18: you can only order one DVD or two cheap CDs at a time without being hit with a bill.

> "As a rule of thumb, British shoppers pay the same figure in pounds as Americans do in dollars... currently about 50 per cent more"

Visit the Rip-Off Britain Web site for all the latest news and views, plus the chance to have your say...

*Sites such as **www.virgincars.com** do much of the hard work for you in locating European dealers who'll order UK-ready models*

you can't order a few hundred cans of 'gasoline' online! But when it comes to things easily fitted into a jiffy bag, such as CDs, PC peripherals and electronics, it's enough to make you drool. As a rule of thumb, British shoppers pay the same figure in pounds as Americans do in dollars, which at current exchange rates works out at 50 per cent more. (The entry-level iPod, for instance, costs £259 in Britain and $299 in the US at the apple.com store.) Why the big difference? Well

Don't head down to your local Nissan factory for a bargain – you'll save much more heading off to Holland and back

Rip-off Britain: a few examples

PRODUCT	UK	US	SPAIN	ONLINE DEALS
Packet of cigarettes	£5.20	£3.00	£1.60	www. (buyer beware!)
Gallon of petrol	£3.60	£1.20	£2.25	don't think so!
Pint of beer	£1.90	£1.70	80p	not a chance!
30-minute local phone call	40p	free	40p	www.one-tel.co.uk
Chart CD	£15	£10	£13	www.cd999.com
DVD	£20	£13	£18	www.amazon.com (with a code-free player)
Average family car	£12,000	£8,000	£9,000	www.virgincars.com
Budget DVD player	£80	£40	£100	www.richersounds.com
iPod	£279	£180	£279	nothing cheaper, only www.apple.com sell them
Budget PC	£500	£320	£500	try building your own through www.dabs.com

Avoid digital Del Boys

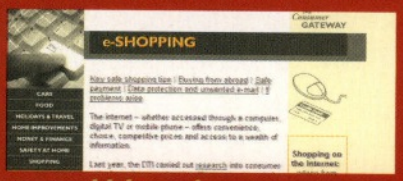
Safe havens

YOU'LL FIND PLENTY OF SITES OFFERING ADVICE FOR INTERNET SHOPPERS AND PROVIDING A WAY TO REPORT SCAMS. HERE ARE SOME OF THE BEST:

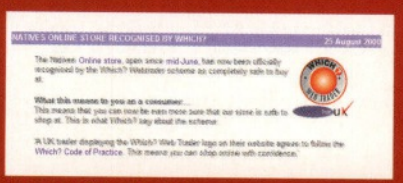
www.shopsafe.co.uk
Considered the successor to Which? Web Trader, this site checks the security, delivery, range and price level of over 1,600 different online shops.

www.kelkoo.co.uk
A comparison site which builds up ratings based upon user input, so you know what real customers have been through when buying from particular sites.

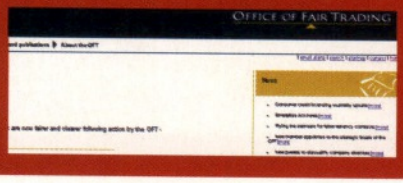
www.consumer.gov.uk
The Government's own site giving details of statutory rights and advice on dealing with problems. It also lists common email scams and provides shopping advice.



www.which.co.uk
The Consumers' Association may have closed its Web Trader scheme, but it's still the first port of call for consumer complaints.



www.oft.gov.uk
The Office of Fair Trading protects consumer interests, scanning the Web for dubious deals and running promotional campaigns to keep shoppers informed.



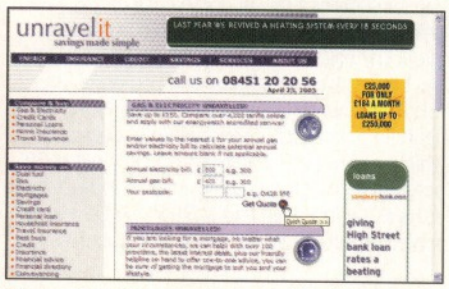
Shopping online may get you a good deal, but that bargain can turn into a lead balloon if the seller takes the money and runs, or if something else goes wrong.

It's easy to set up a decent-looking Web site that will lure customers, so keep your wits about you, especially in competitive markets such as computer parts and electronic equipment. We've heard tales of digital camera suppliers who post dirt-cheap prices on their sites for 'grey import' models, then try to get customers to pay more for accessories, or buy the pricier domestic model.

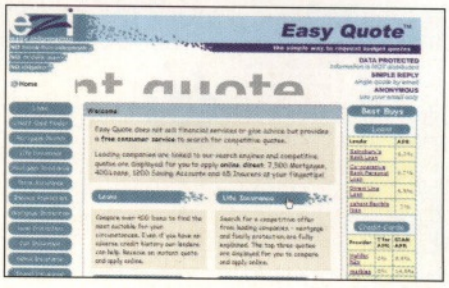
COMPARE PRICES

The Consumers' Association found that when it comes to personalised services such as holidays, travel or car insurance, cheap utility suppliers or a mortgage, the Net gives shoppers an advantage. There's a host of comparison services such as **www.unravelit.com** and **www.easy-quote.co.uk**, which ask for details and show you a range of products. Also, applying online for insurance or holidays cuts out the middleman. To compare utility companies, try **www.uswitch.com.**

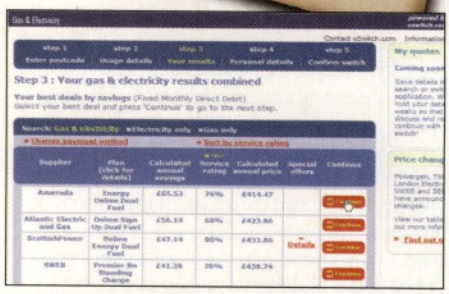
Buying goods online can be trickier. A 'cheap' deal can be offset by hidden extras such as a high standard shipping charge or a handling fee for your credit/debit card. A simple Web search will sometimes help, but try comparison sites such as DealTime (**www.dealtime.co.uk**), PriceChecker (**www.pricechecker.co.uk**) or PriceGuideUK (**www.priceguideuk.com**) for a wide range of products, or PriceWatch (**www.pricewatch.co.uk**), dedicated to computer and electronic equipment. Make sure the places you buy from give details of their warranty and returns policy onsite, and also a phone number and bricks-and-mortar address.


unravelit
savings made simple
call us on 08451 20 20 56
£25,000 FOR ONLY £184 A MONTH
LOANS UP TO £250,000
giving High Street bank loan rates a beating

The Unravelit site is a comparison service that asks for your details and then presents you with a range of available products



*Check out Easy Quote at **www.easy-quote.co.uk** for another comparison service that will help you make the right decision*



The Uswitch site cuts through all the spin and helps you find out which utility company gives you the best savings

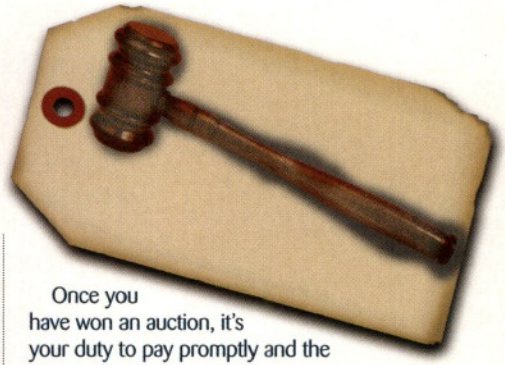
SHOP IN SAFETY

The Consumers' Association used to provide a guarantee for British online shoppers, but the scheme is now closed. Some of the sites are now signed up with ShopSafe (**www.shopsafe.co.uk**), others use TrustUK (**www.trustuk.org.uk**), and many traders offering secure online buying carry the label of Verisign or Thawte. 'Safe shopping' icons can't ensure 100 per cent satisfaction, but they help identify reputable sites. Your credit card company will also provide some protection for purchases above a certain amount (usually £100).

Tips for online shoppers

1. See if your site is listed on one of the many comparison sites. It's a good first sign that it's not a fly-by-night operation.
2. Check that the site has an easily viewable returns policy, as well as a contact telephone number and an address.
3. Use plastic: a debit/credit card offers additional protection against fraud from your bank or credit card company.
4. Ensure that the 'checkout' uses a secure HTTPS connection (check for the lock icon on your browser).
5. Search the Web before you buy to make sure other customers aren't complaining about your chosen site's service.

Going, going... gone?



Online auctions offer a great way for shoppers to find deals that beat even the best store prices, but they do carry a number of additional risks. The seller may run away with your money or provide no compensation if there's a problem, and these risks are magnified if you buy from abroad. The biggest auction sites, such as eBay (**www.ebay.co.uk**), QXL (**www.qxl.com**) and Lastminute (**www.lastminute.com**) all offer their own advice on how to avoid crooks, but of these, only eBay offers an up-front fraud protection policy, repaying the first £120 of any fraudulent transaction, minus a £15 fee. Some sellers offer third-party guarantees for higher amounts, or 'escrow' services which hold your money in trust until you receive the goods, as well as protection offered by credit cards or payment services.

BUILDING TRUST

Auction sites rely upon a system of feedback and reputation to build trust between users. eBay pioneered this system, allowing buyers and sellers to rate one another after each auction, with the rating and comments made public for others to check. An odd negative rating for a seller among several hundred positives shouldn't necessarily alarm you; check the buyer's reputation as well, to see if there's a history of trouble. Conversely, a favourable past doesn't always translate into a guarantee; a few notorious eBay scamsters spent months establishing a good reputation before disappearing with thousands of dollars of goods. Be especially careful of sellers who've recently changed their usernames (indicated on eBay by the 'sunglasses' icon). It's worth staying clear, or at least emailing the seller in advance to check.

eBay offers an up-front Fraud Protection policy. It repays the first £120, minus £15, of any fraudulent transaction

Along with the other two largest auction sites, Lastminute offers you its own advice on how to avoid dodgy deals

STICK TO YOUR BID

It's easy to be lured into a higher bid than you'd planned. Know the retail price in advance, set a limit and stick to it. Save your bidding till the last minute, using software such as AuctionSentry (**www.auction-sentry.com**) and BidZombie (**www.bidzombie.com**). eBay tries to prevent people gaining an unfair advantage through third-party tools, so don't overdo it. Allow for shipping and customs duties; foreign auction sellers are usually amenable to ticking the 'gift' box or marking a lower value on the customs form, but this is playing fast-and-loose with the law and you may still be hit with a bill from Customs & Excise.

Once you have won an auction, it's your duty to pay promptly and the seller's duty to deliver the goods. Send a polite email to the seller asking how to complete the deal, but don't send your address until you've heard back. Get an address (checkable at **www.consignia-online.com**), a contact phone number (test it!), ask for a tracking number and establish the returns policy. eBay has its own onsite payment system allowing for the secure transmission of credit/debit card details, or lets buyers and sellers arrange payment in other ways. It also owns PayPal (**www.paypal.com**), the most popular electronic payment system, which has a limited fraud compensation policy.

As with all auctions, the sale is legally binding. The only complication is jurisdiction: QXL leaves the legal 'location' of a transaction to sellers, but eBay sales are carried out under Californian laws, meaning the standard route to the Small Claims Court isn't open if you have problems. There are enough safeguards in place most of the time to prevent this happening, but nothing beats a bit of research and common sense just to make sure!

As with all auctions, QXL sales are legally binding, but this site leaves the legal 'location' of a transaction to the sellers

Busted! Biggest ever Net rip-off merchants

1. Ann Marie Poet, a secretary from Michigan, responded to a '419' email from a 'Dr Mbuso Nelson', offering her $4.5m (£2.8m) to transfer $18m (£11.3m) from an African bank. When she was arrested seven months later, she'd diverted some $2.1m (£1.3m) from her firm, and was only caught when a $36,000 (£23,000) cheque sent by her bosses to a client bounced – she'd emptied the firm's account.

2. Call this one 'the biter bitten': another group of '419' scammers managed to defraud an American businessman out of $750,000 (£470,000), but a third of that came from a fraud that Carl Fratzke himself carried out on a group of friends by setting up a fake investment scheme providing gloves to Wal-Mart. Even as he was being banged up in court, Fratzke proved how gullible he was: "They sent me a facsimile of the cheque!" he argued. Yeah, right.

3. Teresa Smith of Massachusetts managed to finagle almost $1m (£628,000) from eBay buyers who thought she was selling cheap Apple computers. She kept up the fraud for 18 months, blaming shipping and unreliable employees when customers complained goods hadn't arrived, and created a new username and identity every time the site suspended her account. Found guilty in March this year, she's serving five years in jail, and has $800,000 to repay.

4. Fourteen-year-old Jonathan Lebed made a name for himself in the stock market boom of the late Nineties as a share tipster, predicting unfancied companies to reach new heights and encouraging others to invest. What no one knew was he'd bought low and sold high, a tactic known as 'pump and dump'. He made over a quarter of a million dollars before the US Securities and Exchange Commission caught up with him and made him pay it all back.

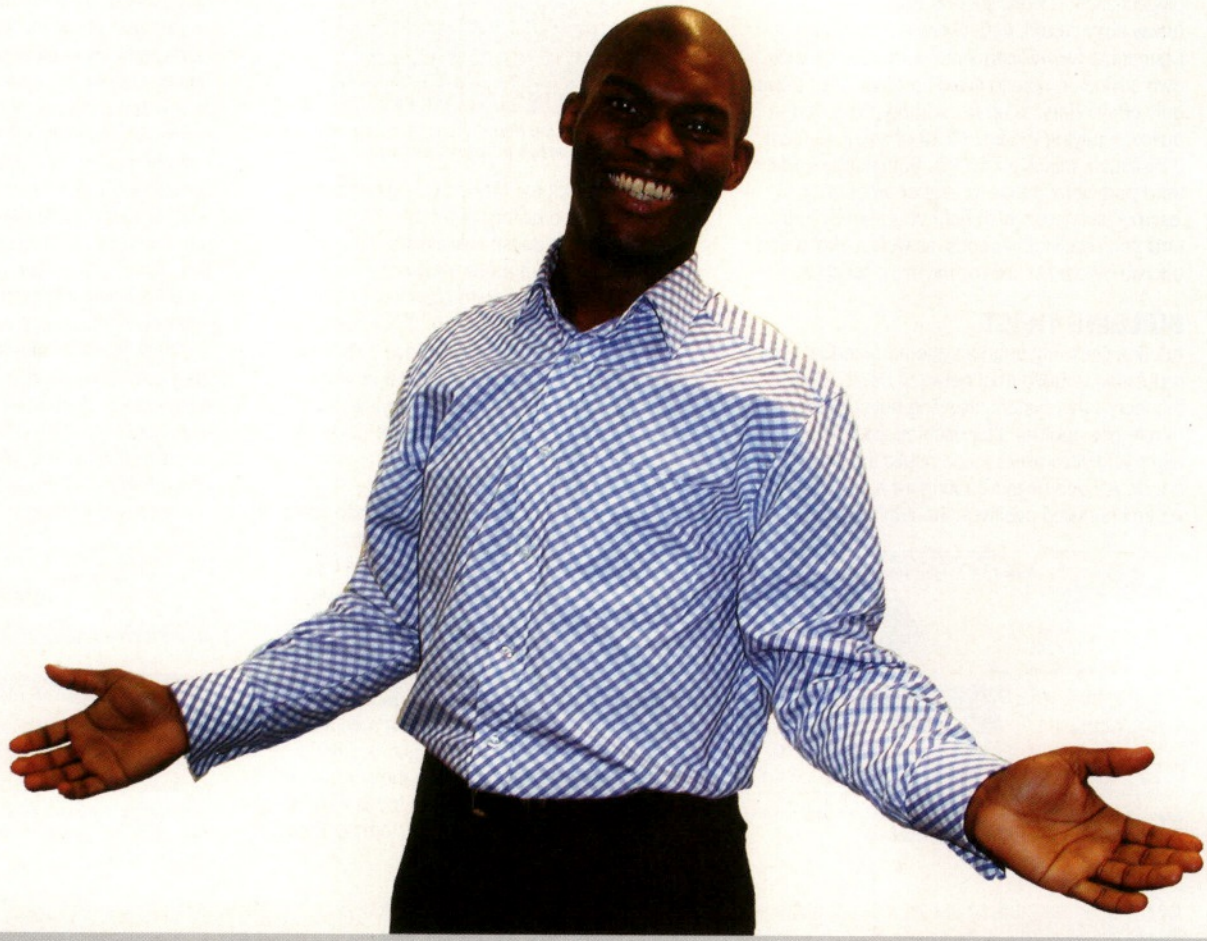
5. A well-respected eBay seller vanished at the start of 2002 with $300,000 (£188,000) of other people's money. Stewart Richardson built up a good reputation over four years, with 6,000 positive ratings for sales of collectible figurines. In January 2002, he started 100 auctions and delivered on none of them, 'selling' the items to multiple buyers by claiming the winning bidders had dropped out. He's still at large, spending the money of those he ripped off.

web hosting *[web həʊstɪŋ] noun.*

1 the storage and diffusion of web based content for access via wider area networks.

2 a reliable, scaleable, feature rich service from **Hostway**. *See www.hostway-uk.com*

"it's that simple"



WINDOWS GOLD: 200MB disk space, 4GB bandwidth, 10 pop3 emails, 1 access odbc, asp, coldfusion, frontpage 2002, control panel... **£14.95***

LINUX GOLD: 200MB disk space, 4GB bandwidth, 10 pop3 emails, mysql, php, perl, ssh, python, frontpage 2002, control panel... **£14.95***

Life is simpler here at Hostway! (and we'd like to make life simpler for you too).

We understand that finding a host you can rely on to deliver the features you want, the stability you need, and the service you expect can be a real headache these days. But that's exactly where we come in.

Hostway have been winning awards as recognized specialists in shared and dedicated web hosting since 1996. We offer a friendly, flexible and feature-rich service to our 100,000+ customers worldwide, with a range of solutions to suit all needs, whether individual or developer, public sector body or SME. Importantly, we are proud that a very high proportion of new accounts continue to come through referrals from our existing customers.

When it comes to the business of web hosting we feel it's the simpler things that count. That's why at **Hostway**, we stand for investment in technology (think usability), quality of service (think dependability) and value for money (think features). We are always working to make web hosting easier to use, more reliable, and affordable to our customers. In fact, we are becoming synonymous with web hosting itself.

So when you're next looking for the **right** host to fulfil your requirements, the decision might not be as complicated as you think.

Hostway – be it information, application or database driven, nothing is beyond your reach!

web hosting • ecommerce • dedicated servers • resellers **0808 180 1880 • sales@hostway-uk.com • www.hostway-uk.com**

HOSTWAY
THE HOSTING COMPANY

Email marauders

As if it's not bad enough waking up each morning to an inbox full of 'horney teenz', penis-enlargement deals and miracle diet pills, only once you've deleted these will you come to the bargain offers and money-making schemes. Whether it's software, holidays or your path to countless riches, there's always someone wanting to sell you something. And judging by the exponential growth of spam email, there must be enough suckers out there willing to buy. You'll be offered bargain 'vacations' with more strings attached than the cast of Thunderbirds, mail-order degrees, debt consolidation, cut-price Viagra and even good deals on spam-blocking software. (Who said these people have no sense of irony?) And 99.99 per cent of the time it's utter rubbish. Stick by this general rule: if you can't remember subscribing to an email update, no matter how professional it looks, it's not worth reading to the end let alone digging for your wallet – especially if it's priced in dollars.

WHO WANTS TO BE A MILLIONAIRE?

Beyond the dubious bargains, the majority of which are irrelevant to Brits anyway, the most tempting and dangerous spam emails are those promising to turn you into a millionaire overnight. The most basic of these ask you to send a little money to an individual, forward the email to as many people as possible, and wait to receive lots of money. These chain letters form the basis of classic pyramid and Ponzi schemes (**www.impulse.net/~thebob/Pyramid.html**), where the only people to benefit are those who start them and initially spread them. By the time a chain email reaches you, the chances of benefiting from it are precisely zilch.

Now that most people have wised up to pyramid schemes, another variant is a common interloper in people's inboxes: someone has a 'money-making secret' and wants to share it with you for a small fee. In fact, most of these 'secret to wealth' spam mailings actually rely upon turning gullible buyers into spammers themselves. What you'll be paying for in most cases is a huge list of email addresses which you're then supposed to email with similar messages, requesting money to share your newly bought secret (a practice which certainly won't be a secret to your ISP).

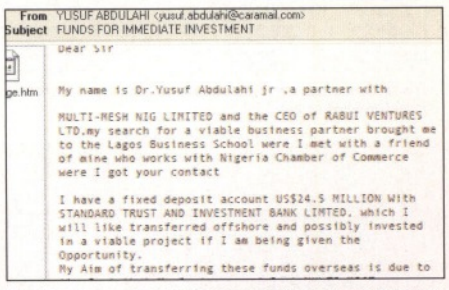
There's not much you can do to report these rip-off merchants, since many are experts at using their own online resources to escape detection. The best thing is to avoid them and forward the messages to SpamCop (**www.spamcop.com**) or your ISP's abuse department.

OUT OF AFRICA

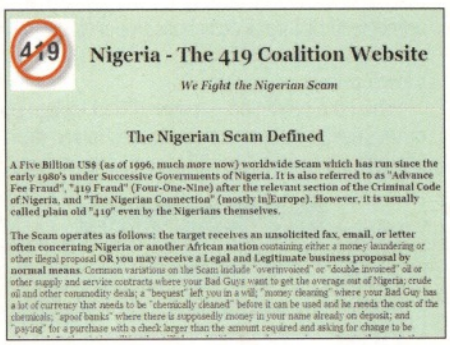
The last form of email rip-off we'll highlight is worth mentioning because it's proliferating wildly, and its amateurish approach is demonstrably good at luring people into falling for it. This is the 'Nigerian scam', also known as the '419 scam', after the section of the Nigerian legal code it breaks. You'll know it better if you've ever received an email from someone in Nigeria offering you the chance to provide 'URGENT BUSINESS ASSISTANCE'. The 419 scam goes back way beyond the origins of the Web, for instance to the days when junk faxes were the height of technology, and the basic principle remains the same. Someone wants to move several million dollars from a bank in Africa, and needs your help in providing a safe haven for the moolah.

In exchange, you get 10 per cent of the total, or a hefty lump sum. In fact, what happens to most people who reply is that they're asked to send their own money to pay 'administrative costs', bribes and other fees before the African loot gets released. If people still don't smell a rat, the scam ends when the gullible Westerner signs over access to his bank account to enable the multi-million dollar transfer, and wakes up the next day to find it empty.

Expect to see variants very soon, talking about hidden millions coming from Iraq (perhaps Saddam's cousin-in-law or a persecuted opposition leader's confiscated funds). Just don't be taken in.


From YUSUF ABDULAHI <yusuf.abdulahi@caramail.com>
Subject FUNDS FOR IMMEDIATE INVESTMENT
Dear Sir
pe.htm
My name is Dr.Yusuf Abdulahi jr ,a partner with
MULTI-MESH NIG LIMITED and the CEO of RABUI VENTURES LTD.my search for a viable business partner brought me to the Lagos Business School were I met with a friend of mine who works with Nigeria Chamber of Commerce were I got your contact
I have a fixed deposit account US$24.5 MILLION With STANDARD TRUST AND INVESTMENT BANK LIMTED, which I will like transferred offshore and possibly invested in a viable project if I am being given the Opportunity.
My Aim of transferring these funds overseas is due to

The 'Nigerian scam' may have an amateurish approach, but it has been very successful at luring unsuspecting victims


419
Nigeria - The 419 Coalition Website
We Fight the Nigerian Scam
The Nigerian Scam Defined
A Five Billion US$ (as of 1996, much more now) worldwide Scam which has run since the early 1980's under Successive Governments of Nigeria. It is also referred to as "Advance Fee Fraud", "419 Fraud" (Four-One-Nine) after the relevant section of the Criminal Code of Nigeria, and "The Nigerian Connection" (mostly in Europe). However, it is usually called plain old "419" even by the Nigerians themselves.
The Scam operates as follows: the target receives an unsolicited fax, email, or letter often concerning Nigeria or another African nation containing either a money laundering or other illegal proposal OR you may receive a Legal and Legitimate business proposal by normal means. Common variations on the Scam include "overinvoiced" or "double invoiced" oil or other supply and service contracts where your Bad Guys want to get the average out of Nigeria; crude oil and other commodity deals; a "bequest" left you in a will; "money clearing" where your Bad Guy has a lot of currency that needs to be "chemically cleaned" before it can be used and he needs the cost of the chemicals; "spoof banks" where there is supposedly money in your name already on deposit; and "paying" for a purchase with a check larger than the amount required and asking for change to be

The 419 Coalition Web site gives you more information on the Nigerian scam, including common variations to watch out for

Create your own email scam

No, not really. The point is that email scams should be so easy for you to detect that you could write your own, since the majority of fraudsters follow a few simple rules and repeat them for all manner of products, services and schemes:

1. Come up with a miracle product: let's say, 'Viag-lard', the lard which makes you irresistible to the opposite sex – and lose weight without dieting!
2. Create a plausible back-story: Viag-lard is a secret recipe handed down by Pacific islanders from generation to generation.
3. Describe how you accidentally discovered Viag-lard and became slim and attractive within weeks.
4. Invent a few 'satisfied customers' around the world who have benefited from your discovery: how about 'Chuck in Delaware'? Or 'Stacy in Kidderminster'?
5. Wait for the money to come rolling in!

Pyramid schemes

The 'pyramid' scheme is one of the oldest scams in the book. There were probably stone tablets nicked from the Baghdad Museum asking gullible Babylonians to deliver a goat to the sender and a dozen stone tablets to their friends, so that they'd receive hundreds of goats in the future when their names came to the top of the list. It wouldn't have worked then and it doesn't work now – and yet people still fall for it, thinking that 'it's only a few quid, and look what I could make in return'. In fact, the only people ever to make money from pyramid schemes are the people who start them. The exponential nature of the scam means that within a few steps, there are barely enough people on the planet to keep things going, which is why they collapse in a heap of repercussions. In short – don't even think about it.

Don't pay the excess...

Finally, we're going to come closer to home and look at the way to avoid being left out of pocket by here-today-gone-tomorrow ISPs, clobbered by premium-rate technical support lines, or see your Web site vanish because the hosting company's had its server repossessed by the bailiffs. When it comes to online service, it's often the case that you really do get what you pay for, meaning that deals which look too good to be true often turn out to be just that.

In such a fiercely competitive environment as the UK's Internet market, service providers have come under pressure to put together deals which set them apart from the crowd. In most cases, this just means shaving a few quid off 'introductory' rates, but in recent years more adventurous ISPs tried to offer heavily discounted broadband or unmetered dial-up access based upon a pre-paid annual fee, in the hope of being able to survive on those up-front payments.

When the projected numbers failed to sign up, or the 'upstream' network providers raised their charges, some of these ISPs found themselves unable to stay in business, and while most, such as EcosseTel, reimbursed their customers for the unfulfilled months on their contract, paying so far in advance for an ISP usually poses a greater risk than any cash benefit.

When comparing ISP prices, it's best to see what the most well-known providers such as Demon are offering

Freeserve is another well-known provider that you can use as a guideline when comparing ISPs

CHOOSING A DEAL

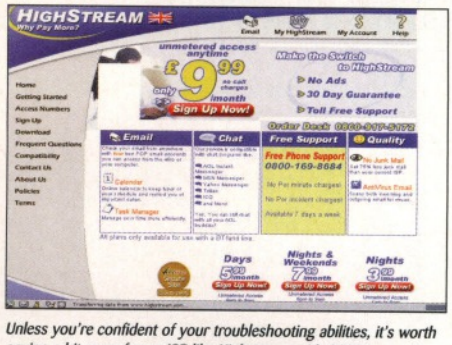
A good rule of thumb when comparing ISP prices is to see what the best-known providers are offering – firms such as Demon, Freeserve, BT and Tiscali – and use that as a guideline. Anything dramatically lower, particularly for unmetered dial-up or ADSL broadband, is likely to be an uncertain prospect, simply because all ISPs have to pass on a fixed charge to BT in order to run those services. So when £10/month ADSL deals appeared in the press at the start of the year, while the major ISPs kept their basic packages around the £20 level, you could be excused for wondering just how anyone was going to make money from them.

Even cheap ISPs which don't appear to be offering impossible deals can turn out more costly in the long run, because of hidden extras such as 'setup fees' and modem rental costs for broadband services, or additional fees in the small print of dial-up contracts. The chief offender is technical support phone lines, which range from toll-free or local call charges right up to the kind of premium rates usually reserved for late-night chatlines. If you're confident enough to survive on email support (which can vary in quality and isn't much use if you can't get online), take the cheapest basic package. If not, it might be worth paying a bit extra for an ISP such as Highstream (**www.highstream.co.uk**) with an 0800 support line.

WATCH THE SMALL PRINT

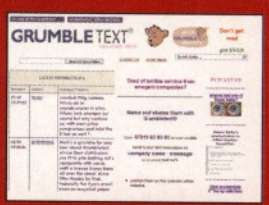
Check the small print of your ISP's terms and conditions, particularly if you're signing up for a deal that offers 'unlimited' dial-up access or 'unlimited' download capacity on broadband. In recent months, many ISPs have become much more active at enforcing clauses which demand 'reasonable' use of their services, which in practice means introducing bandwidth caps or disabling access to bandwidth-hungry users. If you're using broadband with a rolling contract, and your service provider suddenly introduces bandwidth caps or other restrictions, don't be afraid to switch.

Last but not least, the same rules for ISPs apply when choosing a Web host, because you're dealing with the same basic issues of dividing finite resources and supporting upstream costs to bandwidth providers. As with ISPs, it's worth doing a quick search across the Web or Google Groups to see what other customers have to say about the service they offer. If you turn up messages from the mid Nineties, you can be pretty sure your Web host isn't going to vanish overnight with your online labour of love! ■



Unless you're confident of your troubleshooting abilities, it's worth paying a bit more for an ISP like Highstream with 0800 support

Grumble by text



The Net has provided a great way for shoppers to compare prices and research retailers, so why not take things further – and on the road? Grumbletext aims to do just that, by allowing disgruntled customers the chance to alert others to rip-offs and shoddy service using their mobile phone's SMS capabilities. Simply send a text message to the Grumbletext hotline starting with the name of the company you want to moan about, and within minutes your complaint will be added to the site at **www.grumbletext.co.uk**.

Adrian Harris, the site's founder, came up with the idea after being blanked by shop assistants at a London jewellery shop. The British aren't good at complaining to begin with, and there's little point in making a scene in a shop if you don't think the management will either hear about it or take notice – so why not create an easy-to-use central repository for customer dissatisfaction? And why not take advantage of the most popular technology around? As Adrian puts it: "Texting is a great way to vent your spleen on a company, because you tend to have your mobile with you at exactly the moment when you are most irritated."

The Grumbletext site is set to widen its scope to cover all sorts of gripes – especially the latest tactic of sending unsolicited text messages, which the site aims to verify and block should they turn out to be from spammers. Says Adrian: "We haven't yet gained enough momentum to take our first proper potshot at RipOff Britain PLC, but we're hoping to get there very soon."

123-reg.co.uk

Domain Names

~~99p*~~ UK Domains

Check it out yourself

www.123-reg.co.uk

1 Register

It's never been easier or cheaper to have your own domain name!

123-reg delivers a totally automated service with the lowest prices in the World, guaranteed! Stunning price includes:

- Web based control panel • Web forwarding • Change name servers • Holding page wizard
- Catch-all e-mail forwarding • 100 e-mail forwarding addresses • Full domain & renewal management
- Change IPS tags (UK domains) • Change Contact Details • Display and e-mail invoice
- Manage your own DNS • Domain name locking • Affiliate scheme • No transfer out fee

~~99p*~~ UK Domains

Additional services include: Domain Watchers, POP3 and Sub-domains, Pre-register for new TLDs.

2 Build

Build before you buy... risk free!

It's never been as simple or as fast to build a great looking site!

The 123-reg site builder is a clear market leader in terms of features and functionality, having been developed purely with our customers in mind. Exclusive to 123-reg, this new low-cost service allows anyone to build and maintain a professional looking web site in minutes; no knowledge of programming required!

Includes all the necessary tools required to create and update a web site, such as over 100 designs, templates, an intuitive editor, tables, forms and multimedia capabilities. The product is ideal for people and companies who want to establish an on-line presence but don't want to get immersed in development or high costs.

£4.20** per month

3 Host

There's no better place to host your site!

123-reg manages its own UK based data centres, with state-of-the-art security and all the backup facilities you would expect from a market leader. Your site will be hosted on a high-end server and be totally under your control via our easy to use control panel. Choose from two great packages that will keep your web sites on-line...all the time!

from £2.99† per month

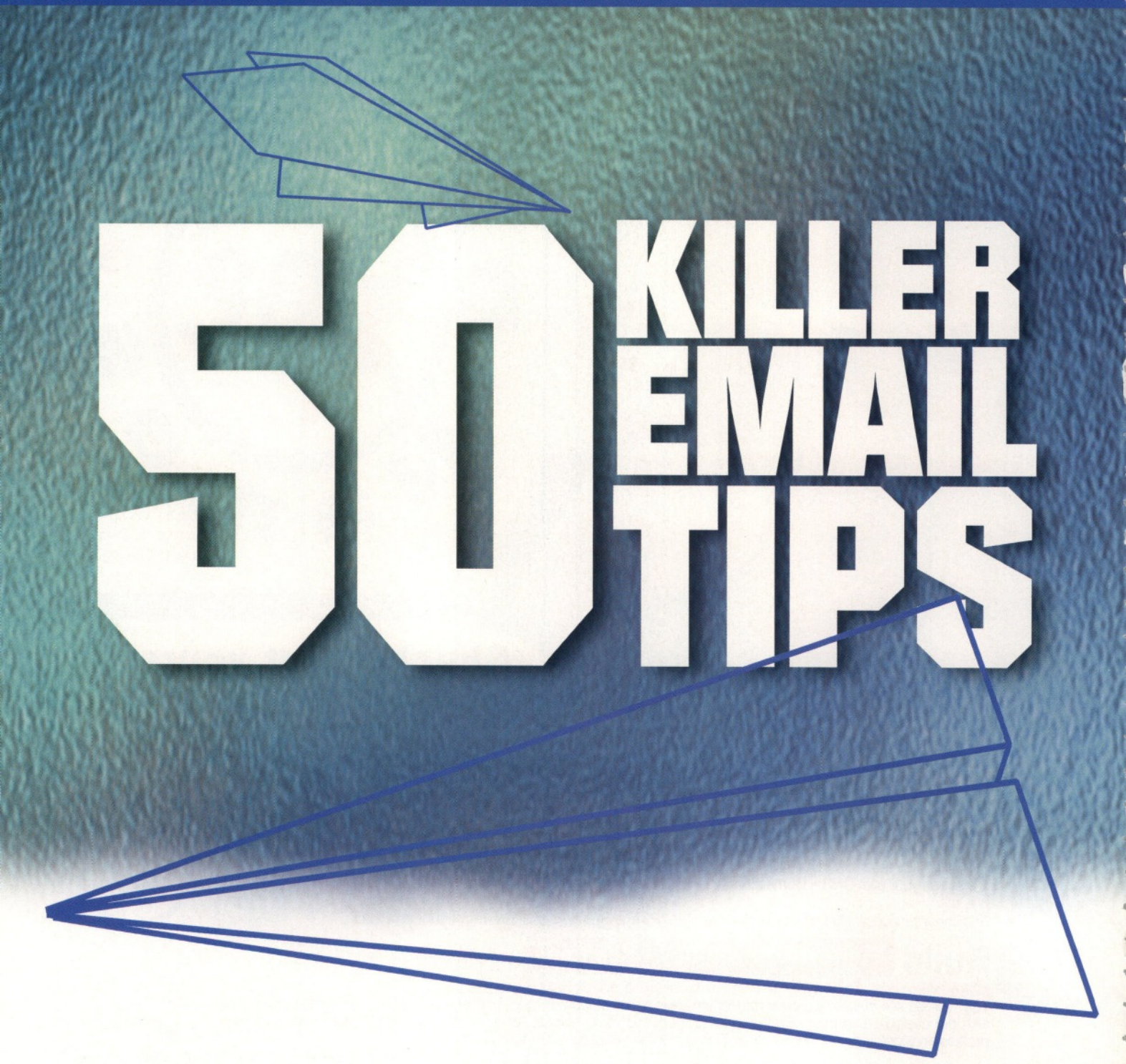
Regular:
250 MB for £2.99† per month, 1 GB data transfer (bandwidth) per month, CGI/Perl, on-line file manager, 10 POP 3 accounts, Webalizer statistics, Unlimited e-mail forwarding addresses.

Xtra Large:
500 MB for £4.99† per month, 2 GB data transfer (bandwidth) per month, CGI/Perl, on-line file manager, 25 POP 3 accounts, Webalizer statistics, Unlimited e-mail forwarding addresses.

American Express MasterCard VISA Switch Delta Solo

Host Europe

*Plus registrar registration fee, see web site for full details. **Monthly fee must be paid annually.
† Monthly fee, must be paid annually and excludes one-off setup fee of £9.99. All prices exclude VAT. E&OE



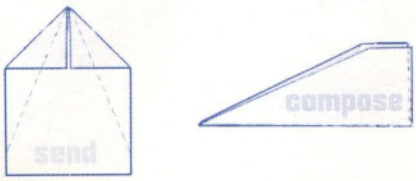
50 KILLER EMAIL TIPS

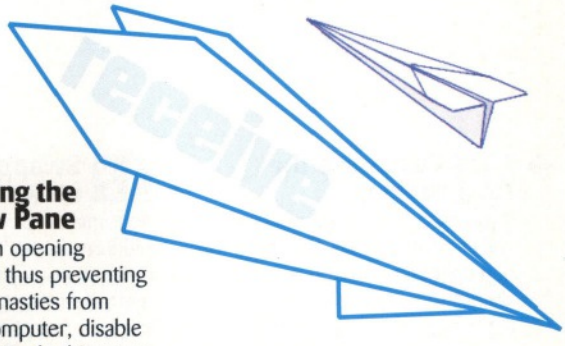
TAKE CONTROL OF OUTLOOK EXPRESS WITH OUR COLLECTION OF POWER TIPS AND TRICKS. **DANNY McALEER** GUIDES YOU TO EMAIL HEAVEN

Like tying your shoelaces, sending and receiving emails has become one of those habitual functions that we all do. It's such an everyday occurrence that rarely does a thought go into the process after the initial setup is completed. Perhaps it's because we think we're an expert in such matters, but can everyone honestly claim they know how everything works in their mail clients? Is it possible that there are many cool functions we've overlooked? This is certainly often the case with Outlook Express. Its small size belies the fact that there are loads of tools inside, both documented and hidden, each of which has a plethora of tweaking potential.

You may, however, wonder if all that effort is completely necessary. Well, the default setup for Outlook Express is certainly fine for just vanilla sending and receiving, but if you want more exciting flavours, you'll have to lift the lid. And so, over the next five pages we'll introduce to you some of the best features in Outlook Express via 50 our handy tips.

Features such as filters, filing emails using mail rules, using folders, customising the interface, creating shortcuts and easier ways to perform operations, as well as some seriously technical Registry tweaking will all be included, so there should be something to interest you. Irrespective of simplicity or complexity, all the following tips are aimed at making Outlook Express exciting again and – most important – far more in tune with the way you work...





01 Dragging attachments in and out

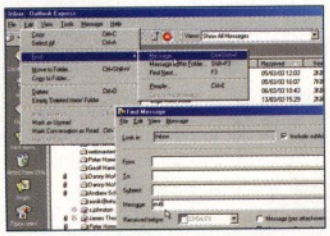
There's really no need to use any menu functions when handling attachments. To attach a file to an email, simply drag its icon onto the message window and release the mouse button. To save an attached file, drag it from the 'Attach' box to your desktop.

02 Mail merging

To import messages from Outlook Express on another PC, you need to copy the contents of the folder: C:\Windows\Application Data\Identities\Your Identity\Microsoft\Outlook Express to a temporary location on the reciprocal drive. Then, pick 'Import Messages…' from the 'File' menu. Browse to the folder and press 'OK'.

03 Finding a message

To look for a particular word or phrase within all the messages of your inbox, click on the 'Edit' menu and choose 'Find' followed by 'Message'. In the dialog box, enter your phrase into the box labelled 'Message'. Outlook Express will search through all the messages, including the body text.



04 Creating subfolders

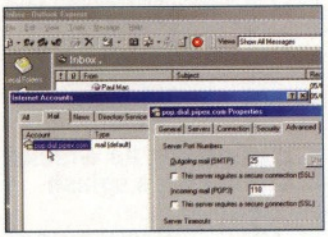
If you receive and keep a lot of your emails, it's often a good idea to divide your inbox into sections. To create a folder, right-click on the 'inbox' icon in the 'Local Folders' list and choose 'New Folder' from the pop-up menu. Enter a name, and then drag your emails from the main panel to the folder.

05 Routing emails to folders

Emails can be automatically routed to one of your subfolders in the inbox by using Mail Rules. In the second section of the Mail Rules, tick the 'Move it to the specified folder' box. Use the first box to define your criteria, then click on the 'specified' link to choose your mail folder.

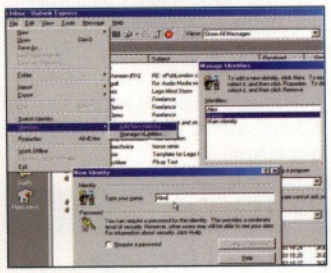
06 Leave Message On Server option

You might want to pick up mails from home while at work, but you'll probably want to be able to download them at home afterwards. If you set up your account to leave messages on the server, it will. In the Account Properties dialog, tick the box marked 'Leave a copy of messages on server'.



07 Sharing Outlook Express

When you're sharing a computer with other people, you should set up Outlook Express with different Identities to avoid reading each other's mail. You can do this even if you share the same account by setting up Mail Rules to leave on the server messages that aren't addressed to you.



08 Changing Sounds mail notification

To use a different sound for mail notification (or disable it altogether), open the Control Panel and double-click on the 'Sounds' icon. Scroll down the list of 'Events' until you find 'New Mail Notification'. Push 'Browse' to find a new sample, or choose 'None' from the menu to disable it.

09 Removing the Preview Pane

To stop mails from opening automatically, and thus preventing worms and other nasties from infiltrating your computer, disable the Preview Pane. To do this, open the 'Layout' panel from the 'View' menu and uncheck the 'Show preview pane' box.

10 Using the Contacts panel

In the Window Layout Panel it is possible to switch on or off a number of components in Outlook Express, one of which is the Contacts panel. By enabling this section, you can quickly select mail recipients from your Address Book, simply by double-clicking on the name.

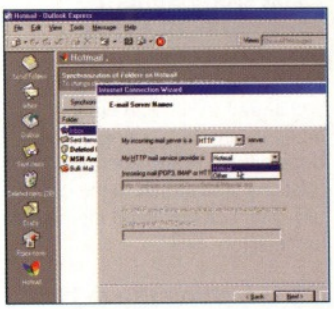
11 Swapping and resizing columns

The inbox and other folder views are divided into columns, each of which displays details about the message. By clicking and dragging the buttons at the top of each column, you can swap around the order in which these are displayed. Columns can also be resized so you can fit more onscreen.

12 TOP TIP

Hotmail accounts and Outlook Express 6

Web-mail has its advantages in that it's mobile and keeps your computer safe from viruses, but it's so much nicer to download messages and compose offline. Which is why many people want to install a Hotmail account in Outlook Express. With Hotmail you need to set up your account with an HTTP mail server. Usually, Outlook Express 6 will then provide you with an additional pull-down menu with a Hotmail option. If this doesn't happen, you have two courses of action. Firstly, just enter: **services.msn.com/svcs/hotmail/httpmail.asp** into the 'Incoming mail server' box. Alternatively, if you're determined to fix the problem, open the Registry and find HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\Software\Microsoft\Outlook Express. Set the 'Disable Hotmail' value to '2' to enable the Hotmail option when you pick an HTTP mail client.



KEYBOARD SHORTCUTS

A COLLECTION OF USEFUL KEYBOARD SHORTCUTS FOR OUTLOOK EXPRESS

Control+M
Send and Receive All (picks up emails from all your accounts, and sends any messages in the Outbox)

Control+Shift+F
Opens the Find dialog

Control+Shift+B
Opens the Address Book

Enter
Opens the Selected Mail message

Control+U
Jumps to the next unread message in your mailbox

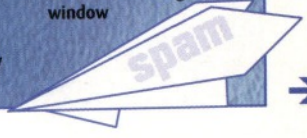
Control+F2
Opens the message markup (for HTML-mail) of the currently selected mail in Notepad

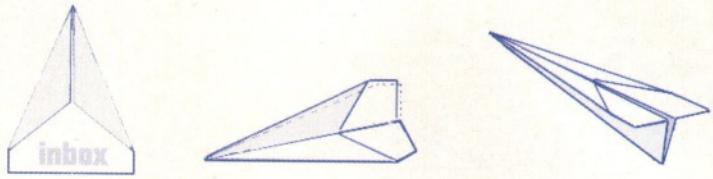
Control+F3
Opens the message source of the currently selected email

Alt+Enter
View the properties of the currently selected message or message folder

Control+I
Go to the inbox

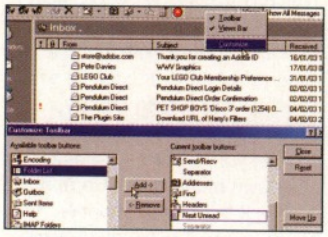
Esc
Close the message window





13 Customise the toolbar

If you right-click on the main toolbar and choose 'Customise…' from the pop-up menu, you'll be able to choose the buttons that appear on the bar. Useful buttons to add include 'Next Unread', a function that will select the next unread email message in your inbox.



14 Use the right connection

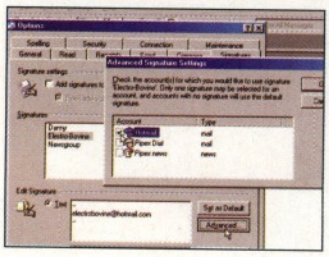
Some ISPs will only allow you to use their own dial-up connection to pick up or receive mail. If you have multiple accounts in Outlook Express, you should set the right DUN connection in the Account Properties. Tick the box 'Always connect to this account' and pick your ISP from the pull-down menu.

15 Don't send it straight away

Unless you have a permanently open connection, it's unlikely that you'll want to send an email immediately after writing it. To disable this feature, open the 'Options' and switch to the 'Send' tab. Uncheck the 'Send messages immediately' box.

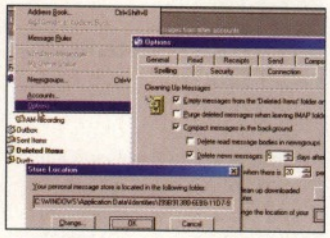
16 Signing the right way

If you have multiple accounts, you won't want to append the same signature to all outgoing mail. Fortunately, Outlook Express allows you to have a signature per account. When creating your signatures, push 'Advanced', and use the dialog to assign a signature to its respective ISP.



17 Swapping your folder locations

Your mailboxes don't have to stay hidden away in Windows' system folder. If you open the 'Options' and select the 'Maintenance' tab, you can pick a new location. Press the 'Store Folder' button followed by 'Change…' in the subsequent dialog.



18 No more news, please

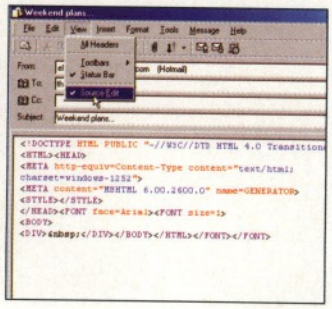
Outlook Express can be started without its newsreader feature, which is useful if you don't use it. Use the 'Run…' command prompt and enter "C:\Program Files\Outlook Express\msimn.exe"/mailonly. You can always append the /mailonly switch to your Outlook Express shortcut.

19 Sending messages without OE

You don't have to open Outlook Express to compose an email. All you need to do is enter 'mailto:' from the 'Run' command prompt. A New Message window will open, ready for you to write your message.

20 Editing HTML mail

HTML-formatted mail can be useful for certain applications, but you're not given many tools to add Web elements such as tables or scripts to messages. However, if you click on 'Source Edit' in the 'View' menu, you can switch to HTML edit mode and add whatever markup you like.



21 Removing ISP branding

To change the name that appears in Outlook Express' title bar, find the key: HKEY_USERS\DEFAULT\Identities\Your Identity\Software\Microsoft\Outlook Express\5.0 (Your Identity is an enormous alphanumeric string) in the Registry. Add a string called WindowTitle (or edit the existing string), and then double-click on it to change the name.

22 View the message source

Opening an email's message source, rather than the message itself, is a safe way to view emails that you suspect may contain virus attachments. Right-click on it and choose 'Properties' from the pop-up menu. Select the 'Details' tab and press 'Message Source…'.

23 Opening up without making a splash

Start Regedit and open HKEY_USERS\DEFAULT\Identities\Your Identity\Software\Microsoft\Outlook Express\5.0. Right-click in the right-hand panel, create a new 'DWORD' value and call it 'NoSplash'. Change its value from '0' to '1' to disable the splash startup screen.

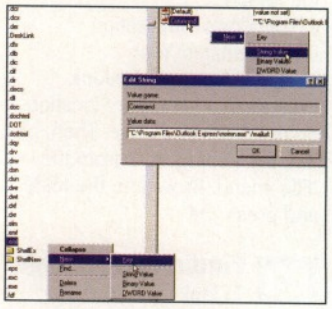
24 Adding contacts automatically

A quick way to populate your Address Book is to automatically add those to whom you reply. In the 'Send' section of the 'Options' dialog box, tick the 'Automatically put people I reply to in my Address Book' option to enable this feature.

25 TOP TIP

New mail message

It's possible to add a 'New Mail Message' option to the Context menu, so you only need to right-click on the desktop to create a new message. To do this you must open the Registry and find the HKEY_CLASSES_ROOT\.eml folder. Select it, then right-click on the right-hand panel and choose 'New' followed by 'Key' from the pop-up menu. Call the key 'ShellNew', then select it and once again, right-click inside the right-hand panel. This time add a new string and call it 'Command'. Double-click on the new string and enter the command: "C:\Program Files\Outlook Express\msimn.exe" /mailurl: Include the quotation marks and put a space after the final colon. If Outlook Express isn't in this directory, you'll need to change the file path. Otherwise, after you close the Registry, your New Mail Message option should now appear when you right-click and choose 'New…'.



26 Get a receipt

If your recipients are also using Outlook Express, you can utilise the program's Receipt feature. In the New Mail Message window, click on 'Tools' and tick the 'Read Request Receipt' option to be sent a message to let you know when the recipient has seen it (if he or she has the feature enabled).

27 Blocking senders

Although senders of spam rarely use the same account, it's still worthwhile adding the addresses of these irritants to your Block Sender list. With the message highlighted, choose 'Block Sender' from the 'Message' menu. The list can be viewed and edited from the 'Tools>Message Rules' menu.

28 Prevent spam from downloading

You can prevent certain messages from downloading by using Mail Rules. Set the condition to 'Where the message body contains specific words' and use that 'You have requested this email…' rubbish as the criteria. Pick 'Delete it from server' from the 'Actions' section.

29 Checking mail sizes

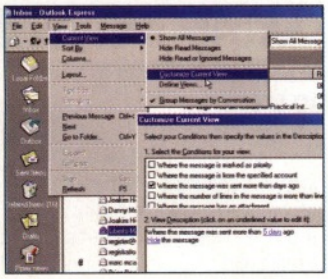
It's often useful to know how large your downloaded (or pending) messages are. To do this, you must enable the 'Size' column in the appropriate panel. Right-click on the bar and choose 'Columns…' from the menu. In the subsequent dialog box, tick the boxes for the columns you'd like to be visible.

30 Using Views to hide read messages

If you right-click on the blank space to the right of your toolbar buttons and choose 'Views Bar' from the pop-up menu, you'll get an additional pull-down menu that's designed to quickly filter the messages available for viewing. Default options include only showing those that haven't been read.

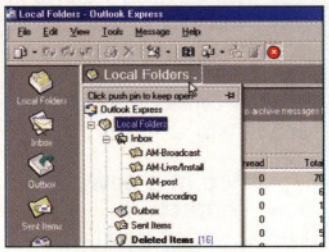
31 Create your own viewing filters

Click on 'View' followed by 'Current View' and select 'Customise Current View' and you can set up a message viewing filter for the current folder, such as hiding messages that are a number of days old, or just viewing messages from a certain person or group of people.



32 Pop open the Folder panel

Rather than having the Folder panel permanently open, you can toggle it on and off as required by clicking on the 'Folder' bar (the large grey panel with the folder name, which sits at the top). To keep it open, press the 'Push Pin' button, or else just pick your folder from the list.

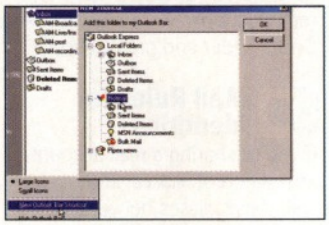


33 Group mails by conversation

Just like newsreaders, it's possible to organise messages in your inbox into related items (where a thread exists). To organise your emails in this way, choose 'Current View' followed by 'Group Messages by Conversation' from the 'View' menu.

34 Add more folder icons

The Outlook bar is a nice visual panel, useful for switching between the folders in Outlook Express. Any pre-existing folder can be added to this panel. Right-click on it and choose 'New Outlook Bar Shortcut' from the pop-up menu. Select the folder in the subsequent dialog.



35 Adding links to IE

If any of your messages contain links to Web sites, you can copy them to appear in Internet Explorer's Favorites bookmarks. All you need do is right-click on the link and from the pop-up menu choose 'Add to Favorites…'.

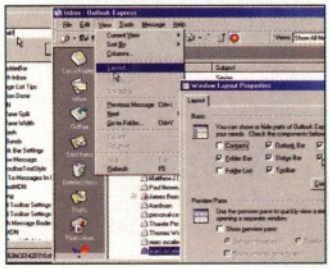
36 Password-protect your mailbox

Even if you only use one Identity, you can still protect your mailbox with a password. Open the 'Manage Identities…' panel and press 'Properties…'. In here, tick 'Require a password', then enter and confirm your password. You'll have to log out for it to take effect.

37 TOP TIP

Make your own tools

You can add your own panel full of Internet tools, such as links to your favourite sites or other such Web elements by subverting Outlook Express' Info pane. To enable it, open the Registry Editor and create a new string in the HKEY_USERS\DEFAULT\Identities\YourIdentity\Software\Microsoft\Outlook Express\5.0 Registry folder called BodyBarPath (observe the capitalisation). Double-click on it and enter the absolute file path of a Web page on your hard drive (or URL on the Net), and press 'OK'. Re-start Outlook Express and open the newly available 'Info Pane' option in the 'Layout Properties' dialog box. If you're using any scripting (Flash, JavaScript or ActiveX components, for example), you must enable the 'Internet Zone' option in the 'Security tab', or else the page will not load properly. You can also use this technique to disable the Info Pane if it was put there by an ISP-branded CD installation of Outlook Express.



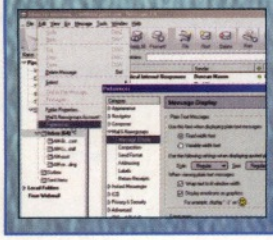
FIVE ALTERNATIVES TO OUTLOOK EXPRESS

IF OUTLOOK EXPRESS ISN'T YOUR IDEA OF THE PERFECT EMAIL CLIENT, HERE ARE FIVE OF THE BEST ALTERNATIVES TO TRY

Netscape Mail

www.netscape.com

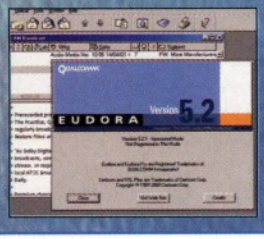
Similar functionality to Outlook Express, this is the mail client that comes with Netscape's browser. It's nicer looking, with facilities to change the program skin. It will import messages and setups from Outlook Express, too. Best of all, it's free.



Eudora

www.eudora.com/email

Eudora has many similar features to Outlook Express, and can even import messages and other settings from your OE setup, so you don't need to configure it from scratch. The free version does, however, contain an advert panel.



IncrediMail Xe

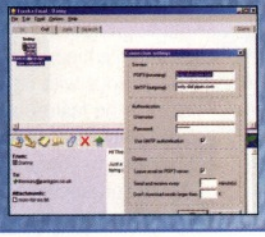
www.incredimail.com

IncrediMail is fun yet still fully-featured mail client. It can be completely personalised to suit, and creates impressive media-rich email messages. It shares many similarities with Outlook Express, making it easy to learn, and can import OE mail boxes.

Eureka Email

www.eureka-email.com

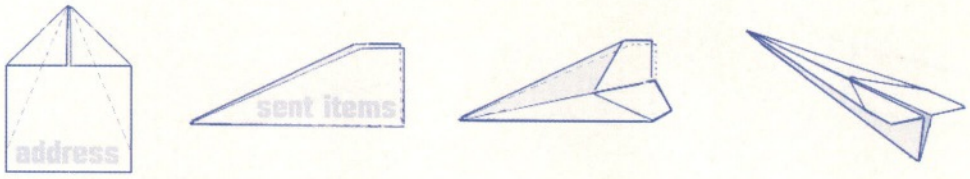
A small and simple email client that's perfect if you just want to pick up and send emails. The limited freely downloadable version restricts the program to one email account and disables printing, but is otherwise functional.



Pegasus Mail

www.pmail.com

A terrific mail client with many excellent features, including built-in spam filters, support for Identities, Mail Rules, HTML mail, Address Book and search facilities. It is also completely free and unrestricted.



ESSENTIAL OUTLOOK EXPRESS TOOLS

THIRD PARTY PLUG-INS AND TOOLS TO ENHANCE OE

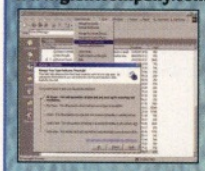
noHTML for Outlook Express

www.baxbex.com

noHTML is a wonderful plug-in that automatically converts HTML messages to plain text. Not only does this negate the loading of largely useless elements in some messages, but it also prevents email viruses from loading. A simple button on the toolbar enables or disables the tool.

Spam Inspector

www.giantcompany.com



This plug-in utility for Outlook Express adds a much needed spam filter and corresponding toolbar to the program. As well as intelligently handling garbage messages, you can add your own addresses to its database.

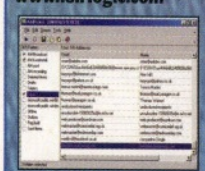
Outlook Express Backup

www.genie-soft.com

Although it's possible to manually back up your mail folders and settings in Outlook Express, this utility makes light work of the task. It can even be set to schedule backups at regular intervals.

AddPicker E-mail Collector

www.fairlogic.com



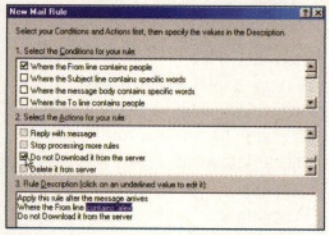
Using this program you can analyse your entire inbox (or any other folder in Outlook Express) for email addresses. The resultant database can be saved in a compatible format so that it may be imported into the Address Book.

38 Save it for later

The Drafts folder provides a way of temporarily storing emails that you've not finished writing but don't want to discard. Messages end up here when you choose Save. To edit and send the message, open it from within the Drafts folder and press 'Send'.

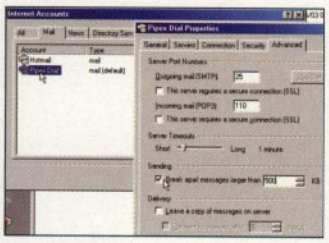
39 Mail Rules for Identities

If you're sharing a mail account with different aliases, and have split these aliases between identities, you'll need to set up appropriate Mail Rules to ensure everyone gets the right emails. This needs to be done on each individual Identity. Set each so that it will not download messages where the 'To' line mentions the other aliases.


New Mail Rule
Select your Conditions and Actions first, then specify the values in the Description.
1. Select the Conditions for your rule:
Where the From line contains people
Where the Subject line contains specific words
Where the message body contains specific words
Where the To line contains people
2. Select the Actions for your rule:
Reply with message
Stop processing more rules
Do not Download it from the server
Delete it from server
3. Rule Description (click on an underlined value to edit it):
Apply this rule after the message arrives
Where the From line contains people
Do not Download it from the server

40 Breaking apart messages

If the recipient of your email is also using Outlook Express, use the 'Break apart messages…' feature to chop your attachments into lots of smaller emails. OE will re-assemble the message at the other end. You'll find this option in the Advanced section of the Account Properties dialog.



41 Don't disable attachments

Although useful, Outlook Express' security settings can be a tad overzealous with attachments. To disable the feature and make up your own mind about your mail attachments, open the 'Options' dialog and uncheck the 'Do not allow attachments…' box.

42 Default mail client

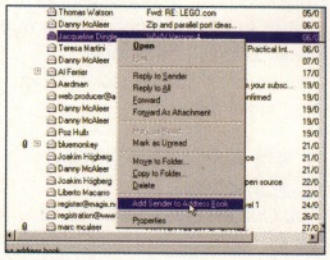
If you're having difficulty making Outlook Express the default mail client, and the settings in the program or in the Internet Settings Control Panel are ineffective, try entering the following into the 'Run' prompt: "C:\Program Files\Outlook Express\msimn.exe" /reg.

43 Displaying contacts

How your contacts appear in the panel is determined by the Address Book. Click on 'Address Book' from the 'Tools' menu to open it, then double-click on your contact to edit the entry. Swap to the 'Name' tab, then set how you want your contact to appear in the 'Display' box.

44 Pop in a new contact

Here's a quick way to add a contact to your Address Book. If you right-click on the mail message in your inbox, you'll find an entry in the pop-up menu called 'Add Sender to Address Book'. Select this to add the name to your contacts list.



45 Back up your Address Book

There are two ways to back up your Address Book. Firstly, make a copy of the ***.wab** file in the C:\WINDOWS\Application Data\Microsoft\Address Book directory. Secondly, use the 'Export' feature in Outlook Express and save your Address Book as a text file.

46 Keep your folders small

To minimise the risk of corrupting messages and to make Outlook Express load faster, you should try to keep your inbox as small as possible. Deleting unwanted messages, especially those with large attachments, compacting folders and moving messages to separate folders will all help.

47 Repairing your mailbox

Should Outlook Express not start, the chances are your mailboxes have gone wibbly. Outlook Express will rebuild the relevant **dbx** files if you move the old ones out of your mail folder. You can then try to reload your messages using the 'Import' function in the 'File' menu.

48 Empty your rubbish

Usually, there's little point in keeping messages in the rubbish bin, so you should enable the option in the 'Maintenance' section of the 'Options' dialog box to empty any deleted items when the program closes.

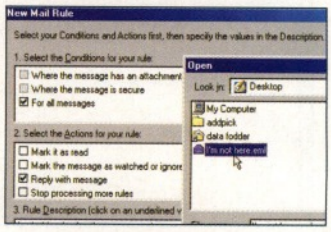
49 Spell checking?

Lots of folk get confused on this issue. The fact is that there's no spell checking facility in Outlook Express, unless you also have Word, Publisher or some other Office component installed on your computer. You can however, try a free one at: **www.quinion.com/mqa/spell.htm.**

50 TOP TIP

Automatically reply to emails

Outlook Express can be set up so that it automatically replies with a standard message whenever it receives an email. To do this, you must first write your auto-responder. Create and then write your new mail message, then click on the 'File' menu. Choose 'Save as…' and store this email on your hard drive. Next, set up a new mail rule and set the first condition to include all messages. In the Actions panel, choose 'Reply with message'. Finally, click on the 'Reply with message' link in the last panel and use the 'File Selector' to find and load your message. With a little tweaking of the Mail Rules, you could set up your auto-responder to only reply to certain messages. ■


New Mail Rule
Select your Conditions and Actions first, then specify the values in the Description.
1. Select the Conditions for your rule:
Where the message has an attachment
Where the message is secure
For all messages
2. Select the Actions for your rule:
Mark it as read
Mark the message as watched or ignore
Reply with message
Stop processing more rules
3. Rule Description (click on an underlined v
Open
Look in:
Desktop
My Computer
addpick
data fodder
I'm not here.eml

WEB TAPESTRY

Web Hosting
From £35 per year

Reseller Accounts
From £25 per month

Dedicated servers
From £83 per month

Colocation
5 locations across Europe

Domain Names
With no hidden extra costs

ADSL Broadband
Always on Internet access

Leased Lines
High speed lines to your office

Dialup access
Subscription Free Internet Access

Network Consultancy
Help with building your networks

Order Online at **www.webtapestry.net**
Phone Free **08000 15 17 18**
e-mail **info@webtapestry.net**

Web Tapestry is part of Axamba

axamba
www.axamba.com

NET GAMING: THE RETURN

LAST TIME WE LOOKED AT THIS SUBJECT, BROADBAND WAS STILL A DREAM FOR MOST GOGGLE-EYED GAMES PLAYERS. NOW THE FAT-PIPE REALITY IS HERE, **GEOFF SPICK** ASKS IF THE GAMING WORLD HAS CHANGED

A year into the mainstream broadband revolution, surely the whole gaming world is now online, kicking booty. Those who were put off by the jerk and stutter of modem gaming, those to whom the words 'connection lost' were a death sentence, should all be delighted at this new world of high speed gaming. But now the PC games scene risks being overshadowed, as both the XBOX and PlayStation2 become dedicated broadband gaming devices.

The most telling fact about the mass rollout of broadband is that the more popular online games today are still based on the five-year-old Half-Life and on Unreal Tournament 2003, based on a four-year-old game. These high-speed, low-brain shooters dominate the usage charts on Internet gaming services such as GameSpy (**www.gamespy.com**) all the time.

For all the advance in broadband speed, players are still sticking to their favourite old games – although now without the curse of lag. While a one-off charge has replaced the dreaded phone bill, all that extra bandwidth is simply going to waste as far as most gamers are concerned.

Sure, patches, mods and new demos can be downloaded at high speed, but the actual mechanics of the games have changed little. So where is the first broadband killer app going to come from for gamers? The galling answer is that there's nothing in sight at this point in time. The reason is that, as long as the majority of users still have 56Kb modems, game developers must cater to the lowest common denominator. If this makes you angry, why not go round to a modem-owning friend's house and smash his 56Kb box to pieces!

Use the force

However, it's in the games themselves that change is necessary. In any shooter, all the information needed is location, movement, velocity, weapon choice and when you shoot. Even a slow old modem can handle that traffic, albeit with the odd stumble.

Broadband does add the luxury of proper voice communication between gamers. Roger Wilco, the GameSpy utility, easily lets players shout at and taunt each other. Another boost from broadband is given to games that couldn't afford to suffer lag from a modem. The most notable examples, racing and sports games, can now be played properly online.

But doing what you could do already, just a bit better, doesn't really say much for the advance of broadband. What we want is something new! That something may well arrive in the form of Star Wars Galaxies: An Empire Divided. Let the scrolling intro do the talking:

"It is the height of the galactic civil war. The Emperor holds hundreds of star systems in his grip, and only those brave enough to join the rebel alliance stand to oppose his sinister plans.

Throughout the galaxy merchants, farmers and artists struggle to survive in war-torn systems, while bounty hunters, smugglers and crime lords prosper during this dark time.

Meanwhile, the Sith Lord Darth Vader continues to hunt down the last of the Jedi, the sole survivors of an ancient order that might once again bring peace to the galaxy…"

Think about that a minute – an online-only world of Star Wars, full of laser blasters, robots, missions and unique characters. Anyone can sign up as one of eight species, start out in one of six trades and evolve through a huge range of skills into a unique and powerful player on one of the ten starting planets. The biggest PC game ever, online only. Think about it!

The Jedi are the sole survivors of an ancient order

Joystick Jargon

Frag – When you kill your opponent in an online game you score one frag, and should you die then you've been fragged!

MMORPG – A Massively Multiplayer Online Role Playing Game is one where thousands of players exist in the same world.

PK – Player Killer: in some games killing other players isn't the main objective, but someone who decides to do so is branded a PK.

Duping – In some games cheaters can make copies of rare items by duplicating them. Ownership of duped items can get you banned by the game administrators.

Mod – Many games let fans create their own levels, known as a modification or mod – this won't be so easy on console games though!

Emotes – A lot of games, most recently Delta Force Black Hawk Down, let you signal visually to your teammates or opponents with signs like waves or gestures for rapid tactical communication.

Taunts – Similar to emotes, taunts let you gesture rudely to players you don't like or have just defeated.

Clan – In any team game, friends can join together to form their own unit or 'clan' with title and insignia; in role-playing games these are called 'guilds'.

"FOR ALL THE ADVANCE IN BROADBAND SPEED, PLAYERS STILL STICK TO THEIR FAVOURITE OLD GAMES, ALTHOUGH NOW WITHOUT THE CURSE OF LAG"

Star Wars Galaxies is set to be the biggest online game ever!

Net gaming: the return

Console conundrum

SO YOU DON'T WANT A PC FOR ONLINE GAMING, BUT WHICH OF THE CONSOLES DO YOU GO FOR?

Format	Microsoft XBOX
Console cost	£129.99
Online expansion	Xbox Live
Online cost	£39.99
Best game	Unreal Championship
Find out more	www.xbox.com/uk

Format	Sony Playstation
Console cost	£169.99
Online expansion	Sony Network Adapter
Online cost	£TBA
Best game	Madden NFL 2003
Find out more	eu.playstation.com

Xbox Live has only just arrived in Europe but is selling well; Sony is trialling its service in the United States. Microsoft locks you into its own service from which there is no escape, while Sony let users choose how they want to connect and play.

"ONLINE COMMUNITIES ABOUND FOR THE MOST POPULAR GAMES"

But while the PC has one or two funky titles to look forward to, Microsoft is betting a large fortune that online gaming will be the next big thing for its own machine. XBOX players don't have to worry about processor time being eaten by a virus scan or spreadsheet, slowing down their game. There is no concern about compatibility, patches or, as yet, online cheats. XBOX Live, the Microsoft gaming service, has sold out in the United States and take-up over here is pretty quick.

When Sony's PlayStation2 service kicks off, its massive worldwide installed base could easily outstrip PC gamers, leaving us with some second-hand, shoddy, amateur-looking experience to Sony's sleek, smooth vision of consumer gaming.

It's not all hype and speed

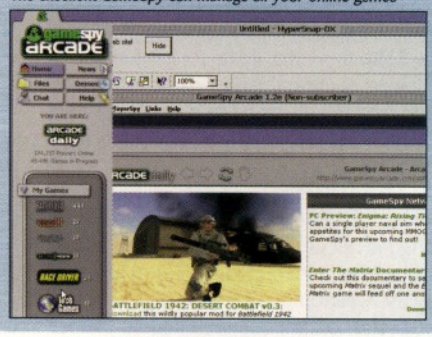
While the availability of broadband is enabling the major players of the online gaming world to dream of bigger and better things, one area that happily trundles along is that of the small developers, who make their little games for limited but loyal audiences. You just have to look at the huge numbers of Shockwave and Java games online to realise that a large chunk of the online community has never played Quake, will never play Quake and doesn't give a BFG about shooting things.

Visit Shockwave.com and there's endless fun to be had, from the politically inspired joy of Osama Sissyfight to sports and adventure games. Broadband allows very quick downloading of these types of games and the reward is quick and casual fun for almost anyone.

Join the GameSpy

Online communities abound for popular games, but the leading service for almost all of them is GameSpy. This service began simply so that lonely Quake players could find others to challenge in combat. Now you'd be hard pressed to install any game with an online mode and not be nudged into adding the Lite version called GameSpy Arcade. Here you can chat to other players in lobbies before you start, visit endless Web sites dedicated to each game, or even just play a

The excellent GameSpy can manage all your online games



GAME ON - TOP SIX ONLINE GAMES

Everquest

Soon to be replaced by Star Wars Galaxies, this 3D fantasy role player is one of the few games that makes decent money from the online revenue stream, and has a massive and loyal, if argumentative, following.

Unreal Tournament

Beating Quake III into a cocked hat, Unreal Tournament has unsurpassed visuals, a brilliant number of team and deathmatch games and a massive range of levels to fight over.

Fortress

A mod for Half-Life, this is possibly the most played online game, with finely tuned combat requiring a well organised and disciplined squad. Team Fortress II will be getting its own special release when it's finally finished.

Diablo II

You don't need a uber computer to play this old boot of a game, but Diablo II still remains one of the most fun party titles around, with Gauntlet-like play and loads of spells to fire off.

Battlefield 1942

You and your friends can be Monty at El Alamein or General McArthur in the Pacific. This is World War II combat on a big scale, with all kinds of vehicles, planes and infantry at your command.

Black Hawk Down

NovaLogic provides the most immediate and gripping modern combat scenarios in its re-creation of the movie of the skirmish. Fight alone or with your buddies from foot, vehicle or whirling above behind a mini-gun!

Online games are as much fun as any other entertainment!

game of Hearts against mild-mannered opponents.

The most popular games have thousands of players online at any one time and even relatively obscure titles have a horde of diehard fans to compete against. If you don't have this beauty, a quick download from **www.gamespy.com** will sort things out.

Tooling up

In order to thrash about in an online gaming extravaganza you'll need a 700MHz processor, 128Mb of RAM and a meaty graphics card – at least a GeForce III or equivalent. This lot can be picked up for around £500 these days, making online gaming accessible to all PC users. If broadband isn't available in your area, don't take our ribbing of the humble modem too seriously. We went back to our roots and used a 56Kb modem for a bit – while Web browsing seems intolerably slow, you can still play online games quite happily if there's a UK-based server.

If you're looking to be part of the future of gaming though, a broadband connection is a must, along with a hefty Pentium 4 system with 512Mb of RAM and the very latest video card, at the time of writing, a Radeon 9800 graphics card. If you really want the best we recommend a visit to **www.overclockers.co.uk** for the finest gear available at UK prices.

Faster baby...

So we've mentioned broadband, but there are so many adverts to choose from. To be honest, if you're in a cable area, getting your NTL or Telewest broadband is highly recommended. Installation comes with a minimum of fuss, and you can get a very fast One Megabit connection for £35 a month from NTL. Not only do Web pages load instantly, but downloads fly and your gaming will never drop a beat. XBOX users will get charged an extra £5 a month by NTL, but if you're a diehard Xboxer it's not too much to ask.

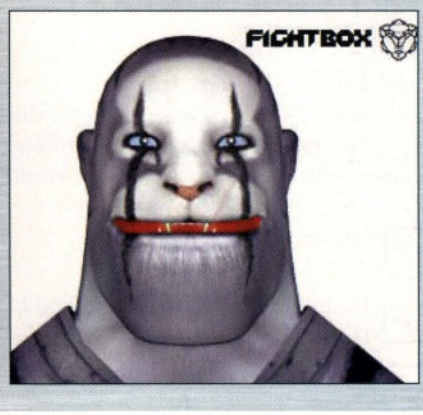
If BT has finally got its finger out and enabled your area for ADSL, there are dozens of traditional ISPs touting for your business. Our advice is to go with a known name and get the fastest service you can afford. Every second you save on downloading is extra play time, and with no phone bill to worry about you can hone your skills to their limits.

The next level

Broadband gaming will offer bigger and better experiences, certainly a lot more than just shoot this, kill that. But it will need a huge uptake in users of the service to get the big developers to turn out proper games that take advantage of what broadband can offer. It's more likely that we'll see these games appear first on XBOX or PS2, as they'll have captive gaming PC markets while the long, slow decline of PC gaming continues. ■

Battling the BBC

Even Auntie Beeb is getting into online gaming, after a fashion. Fightbox will hit the screens of BBC3 and BBC2 later this year. The contesting virtual fighters are created and trained by users of the Fightbox Web site where they download creation software and a host of extras for their warriors. Fighters will have different skills, strengths and weaknesses, and will have to take part in a range of challenges to make it on the TV. Mixing a live studio with realtime rendering, the monstrous looking fighters will scrap it out for the ultimate prize in front of a baying audience. With house fighters called Sentinels, a celeb presenter to be announced and various challenges along the way, think of it as virtual Robot Wars with fists, and no robots!



It's game over man

A word of warning before you embark on your online gaming life. Just as in Red Dwarf's Better Than Life, these games can suck you in! Two Korean gamers played Diablo II for so long, estimated at over 30 hours straight, they died at their desks, their mortal bodies failing through exhaustion. No one is saying what happened to the gaming characters.

Meanwhile in America, a chap in a cybercafé won a deathmatch game only to be shot dead for real a short while later by his vanquished opponent.

If you visit China and fancy a quick go on your favourite online game then, if you're lucky, you can expect a knock from the state police who regularly bust illegal Internet cafes in the hope of keeping subversive material out. If you're unlucky, these places tend to burn down with alarming regularity, such are the poor fire regulations. Over 20 died in a Beijing fire last June, although with most Chinese unable to afford a PC, the queue to get into these places is often too long for even the most patient of English gamers after a quick deathmatch fix!

"BROADBAND GAMING WILL OFFER BIGGER AND BETTER EXPERIENCES, CERTAINLY A LOT MORE THAN JUST SHOOT THIS, KILL THAT"

FULLY LOADED! LINUX & NEW WINDOWS SERVER SOLUTIONS

DedicatedLinux&

Fully Loaded Linux – Optimised By Europe's No. 1

1&1 Internet offers two server families for your convenience. Our stable, secure and Open Source Linux servers are available in Managed and Root formats for flexibility or complete freedom. And our new Windows Server 2000 SAK range allows total remote access in the comfort of Windows.

1&1 LINUX ROOT SERVERS

FOR TOTAL CONTROL

Through SSH Access, the Linux Root machine is at your complete command. Ideal for professional administrators with intensive application demands.

- ☑ **Full access via SSH**
- ☑ **Control Panel Ensim WEBppliance 3.1 pre-installed**
- ☑ **Redhat Linux 7.2 pre-installed**
- ☑ **Instantly reset/reboot with our advanced recovery tool**

1&1 LINUX MANAGED SERVERS

FOR CONVENIENT PERFORMANCE

Move up to a 1&1 managed server for the power and performance of a dedicated machine, yet with all the convenience of shared hosting.

- ☑ **Server configured and installed**
- ☑ **Continuously updated firewall protection**
- ☑ **Unique 1&1 Control Panel for easy administration**
- ☑ **Automatic and continuous back-ups**

FREE

ensim™ redhat.

THE UK'S MOST AFFORDABLE MANAGED LINUX AND ROOT LINUX SOLUTIONS

1&1 LINUX OPTIMISED – MANAGED AND ROOT SERVERS

MANAGED AND ROOT SERVER I	MANAGED AND ROOT SERVER II	MANAGED AND ROOT SERVER III
• Intel Celeron 2.0GHz • 256MB DDR-RAM • 40GB IDE hard drive • 10GB traffic/month included	• Intel Pentium IV 2.4GHz • 512MB DDR-RAM • 40GB IDE hard drive • 15GB traffic/month included	• Intel Pentium IV 3.06GHz Processor with Hyper-Threading • 1GB DDR-RAM • 60GB IDE hard drive • 20GB traffic/month included
1&1 only £29	1&1 only £59	1&1 only £99

Total price per month + VAT one-off set-up fee, £99

1&1 is No.1 in Europe

- 3 Data Centres – £15m investment
- Network powered by Cisco & Juniper
- 950 employees
- 100+ in-house developers
- 7,000Mbit connectivity
- 2,500 customers join 1&1 every day

10 Years' Experience

- 3,300,000 domains registered
- 8.25 million emails handled daily
- 28,000 eShops hosted in Europe already
- 2,300,000 accounts
- 10,000 servers up and running
- 99.9% server uptime guaranteed

One-stop Shop for Web Solutions

- Instant Domain Name Registration eg .co.uk £1.99/year
- Use your domain now with Domain Mail Plus £6.99/year
- All-inclusive web hosting from £1.99
- Turnkey eShops from £9.99
- Innovative Dedicated Servers from £29
- Visit OneAndOne.co.uk for more details

NEW - WINDOWS SERVER 2000 SAK

WindowsServers

The Luxury of Windows - Made Affordable By 1&1

Enjoy full server access from anywhere in the world with our new and FULLY LICENSED Windows Server 2000 SAK range. Seamless integration, proven reliability and major application support combine with the UK's most competitive pricing to empower Windows professionals as never before.

NEW WINDOWS SERVER 2000 SAK

FOR COMFORTABLE REMOTE OPERATION

Using a Server Appliance Kit, our new Windows Server 2000 SAK range provides innovative administration and configuration – from anywhere and at the simple click of a mouse.

- ☑ **Complete administration access via "remote desktop"**
- ☑ **.NET framework enabled plus Webmatrix**
- ☑ **SharePoint Team Services pre-installed**
- ☑ **Microsoft Database Engine (MSDE) installed**

Microsoft® Windows® Powered

INCLUDED WITH ALL 1&1 SERVER PACKAGES:

☑ **LEADING EDGE TECHNOLOGY**

With 7,000 MBit Connectivity, our own European backbone and the finest routing in the business, our £15m Data Centres have peerless access.

☑ **FREE EXPRESS SUPPORT**

Our customers are always supported by intelligent and friendly support by phone, email and live online chat.

☑ **MONEY BACK GUARANTEE**

Test drive 1&1 with no worries for 60 days and if you're not completely satisfied, you can have your money back.

☑ **HUGE TRAFFIC ALLOWANCES**

1&1 has the most affordable additional traffic in the UK. Just 0.5p per MB.

THE UK'S MOST COMPETITIVE WINDOWS SOLUTIONS

WINDOWS SERVER 2000 SAK

SERVER I	SERVER II
• Intel Celeron 2.0GHz • 256MB DDR-RAM • 40GB IDE hard drive • 10GB traffic/month included	• Intel Pentium IV 2.4GHz • 512MB DDR-RAM • 40GB IDE hard drive • 15GB traffic/month included
Microsoft® Windows® Powered	Microsoft® Windows® Powered
only £49	only £79

Total price per month + VAT one-off set-up fee, £99

For many more great features, visit OneAndOne.co.uk

1&1

OneAndOne.co.uk

08708 503305

THE CORPSE IS OUT OF THE BAG!!!
For over a year now, www.CadaverInc.com has entertained, disgusted and intrigued its visitors
We've been investigated by the Norwegian Parliament and even featured on Mtv news! We want to
thank all of our website visitors that have taken the time to fill out the corpse removal, scene clean-up,
and witness removal forms. Your response has numbered in the thousands and each one has been
saved. We are now compiling a database of these hilarious, and at times, disturbing emails and will
present them shortly on the site.
Without your sick and perverted taste of humour our success would've never been possible!
- Cadaver Inc.
In the meantime, choose your destination:
CADAVER INC
Cadaver Inc.
NEW!!! CADAVER INC. MESSAGE BOARD
Discuss the band and all your favorite corpse removal cases! hosted by NeoVoid.org
QUINTESSENCE
Bonsai Kitten
(212) 662-7544
Dedicated to preserving the long lost art of body modification in housepets
Intro
Method
Gallery
Sales
Guestbook
News
Method
At only a few weeks of age, a kitten's bones have not yet hardened and become osseous. They are extremely soft and springy. In fact, if you take a week-old kitten and throw it to the floor, it will actually bounce! We do not recommend that you try this at home. The kitten may bounce under the furniture and be difficult to retrieve, as well as covered in unsightly household dust. However, the flexibility of the kitten's skeleton means that if the bones are gently warped at this early age, they can be molded into any desired shape. At Bonsai Kitten, we achieve this by placing the kitten into a rigid vessel soon after birth, and allowing the young cat to grow out its formative time entirely within this container. The kitten essentially grows into the shape of the vessel! Once the cat is fully developed, it is removed (or the vessel broken to remove it!), producing the lovable, furry pet you've always wanted, but it remains in the shape you've always dreamed of! There is virtually no limit to the eventual shape of your pet.
Practical Considerations
At Bonsai Kitten, we are happy to take care of all the little details and simply deliver to you a fully shaped kitten according to your specifications. However, for those who have applied for and received the appropriate Bonsai Kitticulture permits from the U.S. government, we are happy to provide details of the procedure to those who want to start from "scratch"! There are three main requirements that must be considered when making a Bonsai Kitten:
www.DarwinAwards.com
2001 Honorable Mentions
Email this page to a Friend!
The stupidity displayed by the participants in the following tales stops short of the ultimate Darwin Awards sacrifice. Nevertheless, we salute the spirit and innovation of their misadventures.
Next
Last
Random
Categories
NEW STORIES
Darwin Awards
Honorable Mentions
Urban Legends
Personal Accounts
Slush Pile
March News
Darwin Awards
Rocket Tester
The Smoking Gun
Daredevil
Honorable Mentions
Duct Tape Teacher
Shed Protection
Child Pandering
Wet'n'Dry Shop Vac
Beer Chaser
Personal Accounts
Blasting Expertise
Repeat Offender
Cure for Life
Christmas Fireworks
Flashy Chef
Pain in the Neck
February News
Randomizer
Free Newsletter
Support Us!
Rules - FAQ - Forum
Site Map - Search
Privacy - Contact
Home
Duct Tape Teacher
2001 Honorable Mention
Confirmed True by Darwin
(September 2001, Ohio) A 49-year-old physics teacher allowed students to duct tape him to a wall as part of a
garments, doesn't
teacher overheate
dreams while I wa
acted quickly and
See photos of pe
http://www.p7a77.net/dennys/
PROJECT:
Denny's
"And so it was written that at each Denny's restaurant there shall be a worker whose image resembles that of Saint Al of Yankovic." - The Pleasant Chronicles
NEW ZEALAND
GOLFCROSS
the game played with the oval golf ball
The Game
The Ball
History
Terms
Rules
FAQ
Tips
Media
Shop
Setting up
Courses
News
Contact Us

YOURE 'AVIN' A LAUGH AIN'T YER?

FROM BEADLE TO EDMONDS, WIND-UP MERCHANTS HAVE BEEN CONNING THE PUBLIC FOR YEARS. **KIEREN MCCARTHY** GETS INSIDE THE MIND OF A TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY TRICKSTER AND EXPLORES THE WORLD OF NET HOAXES

Everyone loves a laugh. And two of the things we most enjoy laughing at are other people's misfortune and raw, naked stupidity. Hoaxes supply both of these in heavy doses, which no doubt explains why we love them so much.

As it happens, the Internet is a prime medium for hoaxing. Emails and particularly Web sites can contain huge amounts of persuasive information with the added bonus that people can't judge someone's voice or body language to discern whether they're having you on. You can't ask any difficult questions directly either, giving the hoaxer time to think and come up with clever answers.

So whether it's getting people into a frenzy over abusing animals, or selling human flesh, or the chance to 'watch two virgins lose their innocence live!!!', the Net is the ideal way in which to allow life's thick people to apply their energy. It gives direct access to the main vein of human gullibility.

And what makes the best hoaxes all the better is that people only tend to believe them out of selfish motives – that's why hoaxes often seem so blindingly obvious when the perpetrator finally coughs up. And so we can laugh at those sucked in all the louder.

But, of course, hoaxes also show the sicker side of all our natures. They are clearly cruel and sado-masochistic – why go to so much trouble to persuade someone to believe something, just so they can be laughed at when they fall for it?

But it's just as well that you're not like that. And you've never fallen for a hoax yet, have you? Of course not…

"EMAILS AND PARTICULARLY WEB SITES CAN CONTAIN HUGE AMOUNTS OF PERSUASIVE INFORMATION WITH THE ADDED BONUS THAT PEOPLE CAN'T JUDGE SOMEONE'S VOICE OR BODY LANGUAGE"

BONSAI KITTEN
www.bonsaikitten.com

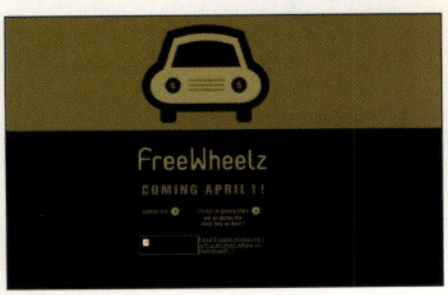
It's a known fact that people get more upset about abuse of animals than humans – and Bonsai Kitten certainly created a stink. Offering the 'animal complement' to the art of bonsai plants, the site purported to sell kittens contained within tiny glass containers. 'By constraining the growth of a developing living thing, it can be directed to take the shape of the vessel that constrains it. Just as a topiary gardener produces bushes that take the form of animals or any other thing, you need no longer be satisfied with a housepet having the same shape as other members of its species', the site suggested. Such was the outrage, the FBI officially investigated the site. It was nothing but the twisted imagination of an MIT student, and remains on the Web as a testament to the sick side of the Net.

KAYCEE NICOLE
www.rootnode.org/article.php?sid=26

Most hoaxes are discovered fairly quickly but the case of Kaycee Nicole continued for years – right up to her death from leukaemia. Until her very last days, Kaycee had kept an online diary talking of her disease. Even her mum started writing a diary talking about her emotions. However, it was only when details about the funeral were a bit hazy that people became suspicious. It soon transpired that 'Kaycee' was one Debbie Swenson from Kansas who had made the whole thing up and was the person who had written thousands of emails purporting to be fictitious Kaycee. Sick.

FREEWHEELZ
www.freewheelz.com

The other thing that drives people's gullibility is greed. Freewheelz said it would offer free cars to people on condition the owners agreed that the car was plastered with large ads and the radio in the car played selected adverts. The site got coverage from Esquire magazine – mostly because Esquire was behind it – and this being 2000, several Internet companies immediately thought they had found their dream ticket. They of course are now bust, like every other Net company and Freewheelz is now a(nother) porn site. Shame because it could work, you know. No, really.



OUR FIRST TIME
www.ourfirsttime.com

As soon as sex is mentioned, people stop thinking clearly. 'Mike and Diane', two 18-year-olds, were going to lose their virginity live on the Web. The dual deflowering was 'an exercise in free speech and a lesson in sex education' apparently, and not a commercial venture – even though it would cost $5 to see it on the Our First Time.com site (now a porn site). It never happened of course, and the two 'virgins' were phoney. They believed it would be their big break into Hollywood. Angry reporters at the press conference soon put them straight.

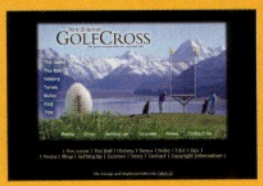
THE SPUD SERVER
totl.net/spud

A little knowledge can be a dangerous thing. When a bunch of geeks announced they had built a Web server powered by potatoes, it rang a bell in people's minds. Wasn't there a school experiment where you got a current from a lemon or something? Before you could say 'crap', the BBC, Ananova and various other online and offline publications had reported it as fact. The craziness continued as protagonist Steve Harris started muttering about hamsters powering his next server, but eventually sanity prevailed.

STRANGER THAN FICTION

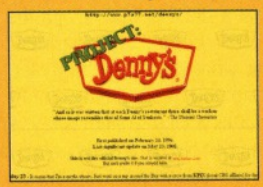
GOLFCROSS
www.golfcross.com

Golf played with an oval-shaped ball and in which nets are used instead of holes. That's got to be utter rubbish, surely? Well, apparently not. Mind you, this is New Zealand, where they are so rugby crazy that it seems they reinvent centuries-old games to be more like it.



PROJECT: DENNY'S
www.p7a77.net/dennys

A bloke who plans to visit every Denny's in America (there are thousands and thousands of 'em). This can't be true. Surely no one would ever bother to embark on such a lengthy and utterly worthless crusade? Of course they would, and he's becoming a bit of a media star as well. Oh God.



DARWIN AWARDS
www.darwinawards.com

The now legendary recorders of the stunningly stupid ways people manage to kill themselves. Never a dull moment. Interestingly, an apparent award to a man who stuck a jet engine on top of his car was in fact a hoax. You'd be amazed at the stupid stories that turn out to be true, though.

GULLIBILITY VIRUS
Everywhere

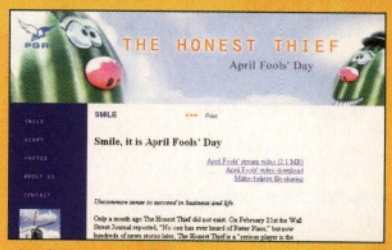
The gullibility virus causes people to believe every piece of nonsense they read in their emails or online. However, it has become self-perpetuating, with billions of emails and Web sites warning about it every year. Don't think about this one for too long...

MICROSOFT AND DISNEY
Email

Sceptics mocked when an email from Bill Gates and Disney offered people $5,000 if they just forwarded on the email to others. Both companies wanted to test some new email tracking system. Anyway, turned out it was all true. The cheques are in the post as we speak.

"A HOAXER NEEDS TO POSSESS A WARPED SENSE OF HUMOUR, A MENTAL AGE OF FIVE AND THE KNOWLEDGE THAT SOMEONE MIGHT GARROTTE YOU AS YOU WALK DOWN SAUCHIEHALL STREET"

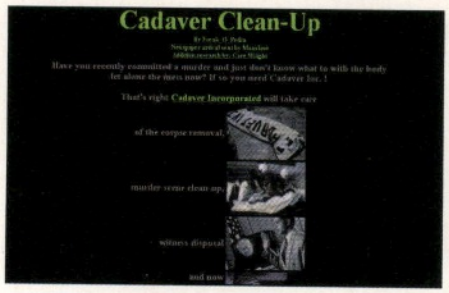
THE HONEST THIEF
www.thehonestthief.com



Most hoaxes only manage to con the general (gullible) public. However, two Dutchmen who fancied coinciding April Fools Day 2003 with some free publicity for their management book succeeded in bamboozling some of the most Net-savvy media outlets on the planet. On 21 February, the Wall Street Journal ran with the headline 'Music Industry Faces New Threats On Web', in which it spoke about a new file-sharing business called 'The Honest Thief' that would take advantage of a recent ruling in a Dutch court and provide a safe haven for file-sharing programs from across the globe. It wasn't long before numerous other media outlets had run with the story, lauding the threat this posed to the music industry. But, yes, it was all a hoax and a cleverly packaged one. Even the PR company representing The Honest Thief had no idea until a few days before 1 April. A beautifully executed hoax.

CADAVER INC
www.cadaverinc.com

You would think that a site that opens with the line: 'Have you recently committed a murder and just don't know what to with the body let alone the mess? If so you need Cadaver Inc!' would be picked out as a fake straight away. And it was. However, the people behind the site – a new band to be called, you've guessed it, Cadaver Inc – were smart enough to include a telephone number (1-866-BODYBAG) that someone actually answered. People started freaking out and the band continued the hoax, giving interviews in which they promised to remove corpses and sort out witnesses for a very reasonable $5,000.



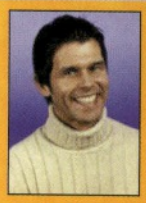
DESPAIR.COM FROWNIES
www.despair.com/frownies.html

The humorists at Despair.com couldn't believe their luck when their application to trademark the frownie emoticon – :-(– actually went through (registration no. 2347676). And so, of course, they immediately set about threatening to sue everyone who illegally used their trademark without permission in emails. It was all done with tongue firmly in cheek; however, never underestimate the stupidity of the public. Apparently the site's frownie shopping basket (you can buy three types of frownie for $0.00) is still finding new customers to this day.

RON'S ANGELS
www.ronsangels.com

'Welcome to ronsangels.com – the only Web site that provides you with the unique opportunity to bid on eggs from beautiful, healthy and intelligent women.' Yep, you check out which woman you like the look of and then bid for her eggs to knock up your own sexy baby. The problem was that it was all too feasible – it is a fact that female college students in the US regularly sell some of their eggs to pay off tuition fees. So some people started bidding big money and others started ranting and raving. Fortunately for all of us, it's just a front.

CASE STUDY: WIND-UP MERCHANT



THERE HAVE BEEN a number of famous hoaxers in recent years. Whether it's Tony Blair getting an unexpected phone call from William Hague (aka Steve Penk) or Jimmy Saville's premature death announced on radio by Chris Morris, there has always been a special place in our hearts for those that confound, confuse and bamboozle.

Robin Galloway is one such character. He is a DJ for Real Radio in Scotland and his breakfast show has become famous thanks to Robin's crank and prank phone calls. There are several characters that make up the show, including Old Mrs Galloway – an 89-year-old geriatric inmate at the Galashiels nursing home – and Hector Brocklebank, who phones people at random and tells them he's outside their house with 25 tons of fish.

We asked Robin what attributes a successful hoaxer needs to have. "A hoaxer needs to possess a warped sense of humour, a mental age of five and the knowledge that someone might garrotte you as you walk down Sauchiehall Street [a main street in Glasgow]."

And his favourite hoaxes? "The best victims have been Ronnie Biggs, whom I got to agree to do an advert for the Royal Mail, and Chris Evans, whom I phoned as Ally McCoist and got on his Radio One show live."

You can find out more about Robin and listen to some of his hoaxes at his site: www.robingalloway.com

MANBEEF.COM
www.manbeef.com

What is wrong with people? ManBeef.com sold itself as 'the world's leading human meat distributor'. 'We have established a reputation for having only the highest quality human meat products and dedicated customer service representatives' etc. It is – or rather was – a clever and complex site, but of course people wanted to believe it was true so they could become outraged. Eventually, the US Food & Drug Administration was forced into action. They found no evidence of human meat. You need only look at the number of articles on the Web that pointed to the fact that it was a hoax to grasp just how many stupid souls there are out there.

Our Data Centre. Your peace of mind.

Microsoft CERTIFIED Partner

Host Europe

Step 1: Select Operating System

Cobalt RaQ

from £74.99 per month
The original "Web-in-a-box" solution.

RedHat Linux

from £99.99 per month
RedHat Linux is the industry standard for web hosting.

Microsoft Windows

from £199.99 per month
Microsoft Windows, the choice of small and large businesses alike.

Sun Solaris

from £199.99 per month
The market leader for reliability and performance.

Co-location

from £99.99 per month
Your server's safe in our Data Centre.

Step 2: Select Specification

RaQ 128
128 MB/20GB/**5 GB Data Transfer**

RaQ 256
256 MB/20.4GB/**20 GB Data Transfer**

RaQ 512
512 MB/30GB/**30 GB Data Transfer**

RaQ 550 256
256MB/40GB/**20 GB Data Transfer**

RaQ 550 512
512MB/2x80GB/**30 GB Data Transfer**

Entry
Intel Celeron 1Ghz/128MB/40GB/
10 GB Data Transfer

Professional
PIII 1.13Ghz/256MB/60GB/
20 GB Data Transfer

Ultra
PIII 1.266Ghz/512MB/80GB/
30 GB Data Transfer

Ultra II
2xPIII 1.4Ghz/512MB/2x18GB SCSI Hard Disks running RAID 1/
35 GB Data Transfer

Enterprise
2xAMD Athlon 2Ghz/1GB/4x36GB SCSI Hard Disks (RAID 5)/**55 GB Data Transfer**

Enterprise Xeon
2xIntel® Xeon® 2 Ghz/2GB/4x72GB SCSI Hard Disks (RAID5)/**80 GB Data Transfer**

Advance
2xUltra Web Servers/Ultra II Database & Ultra II Mail Server/**100 GB Data Transfer**

Corporate
3xUltra II Web Servers/Ultra Mail Server/ Enterprise Database Server/
250 GB Data Transfer

Corporate Advanced
4xEnterprise Web Servers/Xeon Database Server/Enterprise Mail Server/
400 GB Data Transfer

Sun Fire V100 128
500MHZ/128MB/40GB EIDE/
20 GB Data Transfer

Sun Fire V100 1GB
500MHZ/1GB/2x40GB EIDE/
30 GB Data Transfer

Sun Fire V120 1GB
650MHZ/1GB/36GB U tra SCSI/
40 GB Data Transfer

Sun Enterprise
2x450MHZ/2GB/2x18GB Ultra SCSI/
100 GB Data Transfer

Co-location
Your server's safe and secure in our Data Centre. Choose from a range of data transfer (bandwidth) per month and benefit from 24/7/365 unlimited technical support.

Co-location Pro
Half rack of 20 U's of 19" rack server space/15 100 Mb Switch Ports /15 power sockets/up to 30 IP addresses/
45 GB Data Transfer

Co-location Ultra
Full rack of 40 U's of 19" rack server space/23 100 Mb Switch Ports /23 power sockets/up to 60 IP addresses/
70 GB Data Transfer

Step 3: Select Security

Firewall
only £100 per month

Protect your machine from unwanted visitors. Web based control panel allows you to add rules and deny undesirable visitors.

Backup
Daily - only £120 per month
Weekly - only £60 per month

Running databases, holding customer information or involved in e-commerce? If your answer is "yes" then order backup now and benefit from free restores if required!

Advanced Systems Monitoring
only £30 per month

The ultimate tool for knowing how your server is operating. Pre-empt critical failure and minimise server downtime with messaging via e-mail or SMS.

Plus Package
only £199.99 per month
(Save £600 per year)

Firewall, Daily Backup and Advanced Systems Monitoring bundled to save over £600 per year! The complete solution to your Web hosting security.

Product Focus: Ensim

FREE!

Free Ensim software pre-installed and ready to run on every Linux and Windows server!

This industry-leading, web hosting platform allows our resellers and customers to manage their hosting environment and administer their server with no technical ability. Ownership of the administrative functions and configuration of your own server will delight your customers, maximize performance and minimize costs. Ensim will transform your Dedicated Server into an easy-to-use, web hosting appliance that's ideal for web developers, designers and single site users alike.

ensim

Free with Linux & Windows Servers

Benefit From

Same Day Setup

Call us and place your order via credit card or direct debit before 4:00 p.m. (Monday-Friday) and we'll have your server up and running on the same day!

State of the art Data Centres

Our UK Data Centres are designed, owned and managed by us. Situated in London and Nottingham, they benefit from the latest security, backup, power and climate control features available.

Customer Charter

Dedicated Servers are committed to providing you with the highest levels of customer service. Covering all aspects of the customer relationship, it's your assurance of world class service.

Current Specials

Internetworks Free Subscription for 6 months!

Dedicated Servers have teamed up with one of UK's leading Internet magazines, Internet Works, to bring you a great offer. Purchase any dedicated server from our range and receive a free six months subscription.

Pre-Pay Bonus Pack

A huge bonus if you take out any dedicated server with a value of £2000 or more and pay for the year in advance. Each pack includes 5 leading books on your chosen operating system, that will help you get the most out of your dedicated server; as well as great Host Europe merchandise.

Step 4: Relax with...

FREE AND UNLIMITED Technical Support

Unlike most of our competitors we do not charge for technical support or aftersales service. Available with every Dedicated Servers product, you can call or e-mail our support team on an unlimited basis, 24/7/365.

Service Level Agreement

Standard SLA:
Our Industry leading SLA is your guarantee of a totally reliable service. We'll pay you if it's not! Benefit from 99.9% connectivity, 30 minute reboot guarantee, 1:1 contention ratio on bandwidth and a price freeze-forever!

Advanced SLA:
Specially tailored for Enterprise level services and above, the Advanced SLA is perfect for mission critical sites. Backed by a money back guarantee, benefit from 99.999% connectivity, two hour hardware resolution, 30 minute reboot guarantee, 1:1 content on ratio on bandwidth, a price freeze and a personal Account Manager.

Step 5: Contact Us

t: **0870 333 0877**

e: **sales@dedicated-servers.co.uk**

w: **www.dedicated-servers.co.uk**

We constantly monitor the competition and know we offer the best value, feature-for-feature dedicated hosting in Europe. We are after all, the generic name associated with scalable, secure hosting. We will beat any like for like quote ..try us!

American Express · MasterCard · VISA · VISA Electron · Switch · Delta · Solo · Direct Debit

Our Data Centre. Your peace of mind.

Dedicated Servers

Prices exclude VAT @ 17.5% and setup where applicable. All trademarks acknowledged. E&OE

WEB TAPESTRY

Web Hosting
From £35 per year

Reseller Accounts
From £25 per month

Dedicated servers
From £83 per month

Colocation
5 locations across Europe

Domain Names
With no hidden extra costs

ADSL Broadband
Always on Internet access

Leased Lines
High speed lines to your office

Dialup access
Subscription Free Internet Access

Network Consultancy
Help with building your networks

Order Online at **www.webtapestry.net**
Phone Free **08000 15 17 18**
e-mail **info@webtapestry.net**

Web Tapestry is part of Axamba

axamba
www.axamba.com

HOW TO GET YOUR SITE TO THE TOP OF THE SEARCHING TREE – PAGE 50

EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO BUILD STUNNING SITES

Webmaster

■ IN-DEPTH FEATURES ■ STEP-BY-STEP WORKSHOPS ■ HAND-CODING MASTERCLASS

WELCOME...

WE'VE ALL THOUGHT about making our sites accessible, then shoved it under the carpet and forgotten all about it. It's so tempting to ignore accessibility issues, especially when you want to focus on making your site as amazing as possible, but it's becoming difficult to do so. In fact, increasing numbers of sites are forced by law to incorporate accessibility, and it won't be long before it'll be down to you as well. More than that, making your site accessible is good practice – it'll make you think about its structure, and will ensure everything works properly. This is why we've decided to give you the ultimate rundown on how you can create your own accessible site, starting on page 54. Enjoy...

Thomas Watson, Editor

What's inside...

50 Get listed on search engines
The secrets behind getting your site to the top of the searching tree

52 Flash MX power tips
Boost your animations with our guide to Macromedia's powerhouse

54 Build an accessible site
Creating a fully accessible site in Dreamweaver and Flash MX

60 Tweak your photos in PSP8
How to make use of the latest image-editor from Jasc's photo tools

62 Get animated with Flash
A guide to placing Flash animations onto your site quickly and easily

64 Format your site with CSS
Empower your HTML with CSS

66 Find the right number
Create a calculator with JavaScript

68 Create an online catalogue
Build a product catalogue – the second in our PHP/MySQL series

70 Web design Q&A
James Seabright leads you through the murky world of Web design

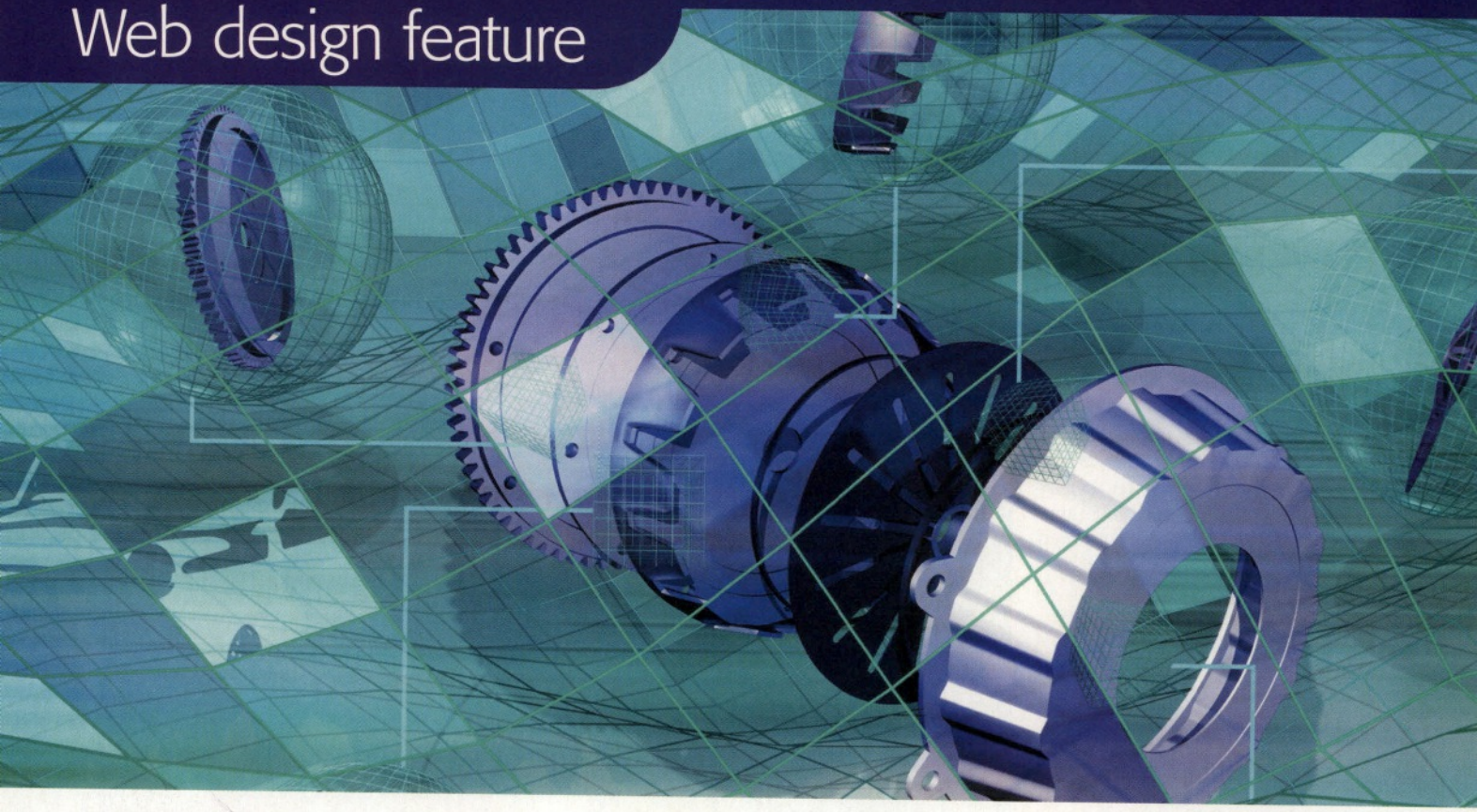
Accessibility

WE SHOW YOU HOW YOU CAN BUILD GREAT-LOOKING ACCESSIBLE SITES WITH FLASH AND DREAMWEAVER. SEE PAGE 54

Also in Webmaster this issue...

Learning Flash isn't difficult. Becoming a Macromedia master is a different matter. We set you off on your journey with ten tips that show you how you can get the most from Flash MX

Don't let problem pictures get the better of you. Take full control with the fantastic new digicam-specific features in the long-awaited release of Paint Shop Pro 8



How to get your site listed on search engines

YOU HAVE THE WEB SITE AND ARE READY TO PUBLICISE YOUR MASTERPIECE, BUT HOW DO SEARCH ENGINES ACTUALLY WORK?

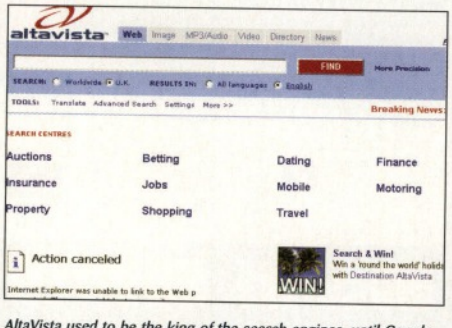
You can invest a lot of time and energy in designing and programming your Web site, and spend even more time actually promoting your efforts so it's picked up by search engines and brought to the masses. But how do Web-based search engines gather data, and what can you do to maximise your chances of getting your site registered?

In the past there were a handful of reliable search engines such as Lycos and Hotbot, with AltaVista firmly placed at the top of the pile. Then the landscape was changed altogether. In 1998, two Stanford University graduates launched a revolutionary search engine called Google, and in less than five years it has become the search engine of choice for the world.

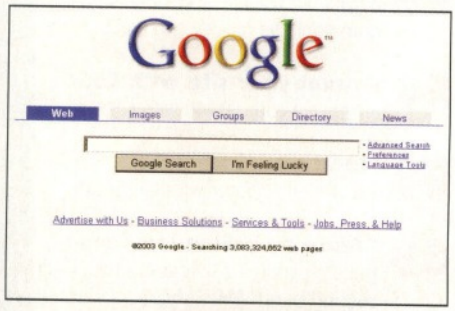
But how do search engines like Google and AltaVista actually work? They're divided up into three main bodies: the Web crawler, the index and the search engine software. They are known as crawler-based search engines because they employ applications called Web spiders (or Web crawlers) to visit Web sites and log every link within a domain name. These Web spiders pay regular return visits, checking to see if anything has changed (or if the domain is still active) and updating the entry on the search database, known as the index.

This index or catalogue is the second part of the search engine and is a giant copy of every site the spider visits. If the target site changes, these alterations will also be made to the index version of the site. Sometimes it can take a while for a site to be added to the index – so it has been spidered but not indexed.

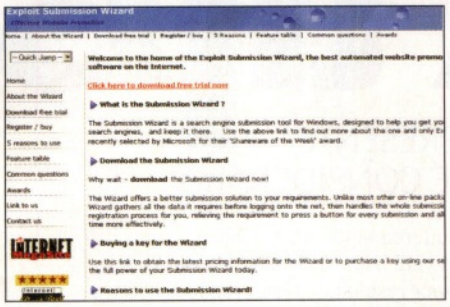
The third part of a search engine is the actual search engine software itself. This takes the user input and searches through the index (or database of Web pages) and presents the search results in order of relevance. How it decides which pages in the index are relevant to the user is what gives each search engine its individuality – and is what has made Google so popular. The Google engine has developed a system of always being spot-on with its search results.



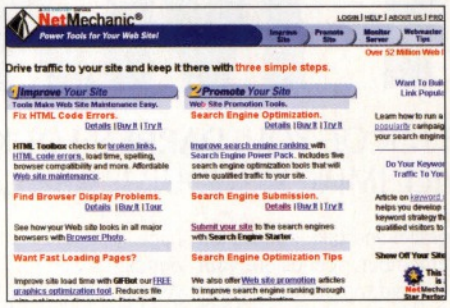
AltaVista used to be the king of the search engines, until Google came along and stole its crown



It may have a dull-looking home page, but Google has proven that it's the best search engine around time and time again


Exploit Submission Wizard
Welcome to the home of the Exploit Submission Wizard, the best automated website promo
software on the Internet.
Click here to download free trial now
What is the Submission Wizard ?
Download the Submission Wizard
Buying a key for the Wizard
Reasons to use the Submission Wizard!

Looking for a lazy way to get all your links included on the search engines? Use the Submission Wizard application


NetMechanic®
Power Tools for Your Web Site!
Drive traffic to your site and keep it there with three simple steps.
Improve Your Site
Promote Your Site
Fix HTML Code Errors.
Search Engine Optimization.
Find Browser Display Problems.
Search Engine Submission.
Want Fast Loading Pages?
Search Engine Optimization Tips

Get your Web site ready for search engine submission with these handy tools provided by Netmechanic

Lycos will still do you a fair turn on the search engine stakes. Just get your meta tags sorted, and you could be looking at success

So how can you maximise your HTML code so that the Web spiders do their job properly? First, make good use of the meta tags in your HTML. Here's an example of meta tag construction:

```
<META NAME="Keywords"
CONTENT="music, guitar, keyboard, singing">
<META NAME="Description"
CONTENT="This site is dedicated to musicians
and anyone who likes making music.">
```

These tags allow you to put description keywords into your code that are picked up by Web spiders. Keywords should be separated by commas (although there is discussion about whether or not this is a programming convention) and ideally should be less than 1,000 characters. But remember, meta tags aren't a magic solution, but just one small step forward to getting your Web site listed.

"META TAGS ARE ONE SMALL STEP TO GETTING YOUR WEB SITE ENLISTED"

Make sure that keywords actually appear in your TITLE header and on the front page of your site. Many people don't make proper use of the TITLE tag, so put some of your keywords in there. Yes, it might make the title look a little messy but the increased recognition will pay dividends. Also, remember that the higher up the page these keywords are, the more likely they are to get picked up by a Web spider. A cunning tip is to put a block of keywords in small type and set the ink colour the same as the background colour, so they appear invisible on the page. Remember to keep keywords short and simple, and not to overcomplicate or use words that are unlikely to be associated with your site. Try to imagine how your potential browser would describe your site.

Linking it up

If you have links on your index page, make sure they are actual text-based hyperlinks, because some Web spiders can't navigate through image-mapped links. Also, some spiders don't work well with frames and don't work with Flash animations; so when it comes to adding your URL into a Web search engine, add multiple pages so that the Web spider can navigate around these stumbling blocks.

Of course, there are many Web sites willing to aid your Web site promotion and to capitalise on your need for publicity. One of the most well-known applications is Exploit's Submission wizard (**www.exploit.net/wizard**). You can download the trial version of this software and get your site added to 20 or so search engines, but if you want full functionality, you have to pay for a monthly subscription. Meanwhile, services such as NetMechanic (**www.netmechanic.com**) will look at your HTML code and optimise it for search engines, and submit your site for a single yearly fee.

Geek speak

HTML
Hyper Text Markup Language. This is the code that makes up the pages and can be considered the building blocks of the Web.

Meta tag
A special kind of HTML tag that provides specific information about the Web page it's embedded in.

Search engine
This is a program that is used to search for documents containing specific keywords, but is also used to describe Web sites such as Google or AltaVista that enable users to search for Web sites.

Web spider
A program that automatically retrieves Web page information to feed a search engine database. It is called a spider because it crawls the Web, looking for new links.

Hyperlink
An element on a Web page, that when clicked by the user, takes them to another Web address or link.

Search engines

Google
This is a Web crawler-based search engine, which uses a number of Web spiders to add information to its index or database. You can submit your URL for free to the Google Webspider at this address: **www.google.com/addurl.html**.

AltaVista
This is a combination of Web crawler and directory engine. Basic submission is free (for four URLs), so if you want to do a good job of submitting your site you'll need to sign up for a business account, which will cost you roughly £20 per URL listing.

LookSmart
Again, this is a Web crawler and Web directory-based engine. This site is based upon the Inktomi search engine, but if you want to be included you will find that you have to pay in order to advertise.

Flash MX tips

DON'T LET FLASH GET THE BETTER OF YOU. **DARREN LOCK** PRESENTS YOU WITH TEN TRICKS THAT WILL IMPROVE YOUR FLASH LIFE CONSIDERABLY

1 Fixing jumping images in animations

This is a common problem in Flash. You create an animation using image files and the movie runs smoothly when you preview it, but when you actually place it on a page it jumps slightly.

A solution for this involves turning the images you are animating into symbols and then setting their alpha channel rating to 99% by using the Effects palette. Even though the alpha channel setting has changed, the symbol will look exactly the same and the jumping will have disappeared.

2 Keeping it small

So you've made your epic Flash movie, but the only problem is that when you compile and export it, it's a lot bigger than you anticipated. Don't panic, though for there are a couple of tips and tricks you can try in order to reduce the overall size of your Flash movie.

First of all, if you're creating a movie that uses many different elements and layers, try to combine these layers into one graphic, preferably a PNG file, as Flash MX seems to have a preference for those. Also, instead of having one long movie, get into the habit of using scenes in your movies. This means that all the frames in your movie will run in parallel and take up less file space. Remember, scenes are your friends, so don't be afraid to use them. And if you are using vector images in your movies, ungroup all the elements and use the 'Modify', 'Optimise' option to reduce the detail of the image. You can be quite savage and reduce the detail by 50 percent without spoiling the overall look of your artwork.

3 Sounds good to me

If you are using sound in your movies, there's a temptation to simply put a sound on the main timeline and set it to stream. Make sure you don't do this, though, because you'll end up with a much larger file. Instead, insert your music file into its own timeline and make sure it has enough frames to play through once. You can now tweak your frame rate to make the sound play within your movie and save valuable file space as well.

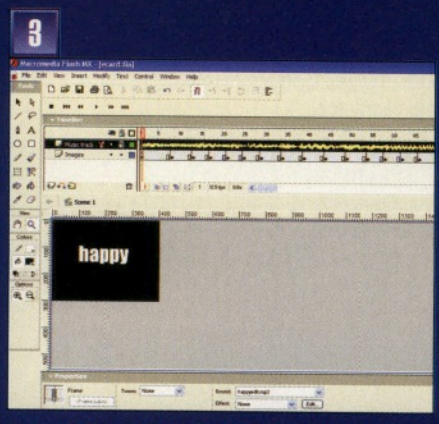
4 More screen size

The main Flash interface, even with its new panelled look, can still get pretty cluttered at the best of times – especially if you are using a smaller monitor or have a lower resolution. Feel free to move your Actions and Properties panels around the screen to make better use of your screen resolution. To do this, hold your mouse over the top left of the Actions panel (over the part that looks like five dots) and click on the panel, dragging it to the new location. You can also resize the panel by sliding the Resize bar to the right of the panel. Repeat this action for all of the panels you want to move or resize in the main interface.

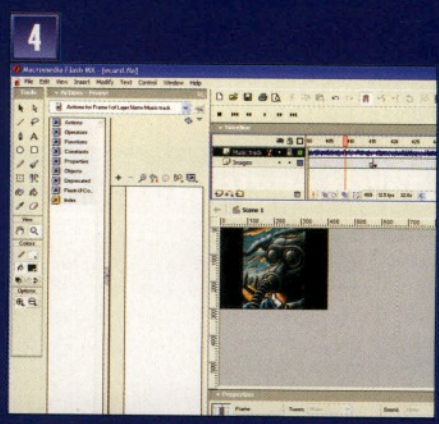
5 Centre It shortcut

If you want to centre a graphic or element in Flash MX, you usually have to go to the Align panel and manually select how you want your images lined up. This incredibly long-winded process takes up lots of your valuable design time, but now you can use this keyboard shortcut instead. Click on the image you want to line up, press 'CTRL'+'X' to cut it then 'CTRL'+'V' to paste it, and it will magically appear centre-aligned in your movie. Voila! Instant alignment.

Adjust the alpha channel setting to stop those jumping images



Give music files their own timeline and frames to play through



Drag those panels around until you can see what you are doing

6 More keyboard shortcuts

Looking for more keyboard shortcuts? Of course we could print them all here, but that would be incredibly lazy of us. Instead, you can download a handy little Flash movie from Macromedia with all the shortcuts laid out for you from: **www.macromedia.com/support/flash/documentation.html**.

7 Email from within Flash

Have you ever wanted to create an email button within your Flash movie, but not known how to do it? Well it's quite easy to achieve if you know what the correct ActionScript code is. Create your email button, click on the 'Actions' panel and insert the following piece of code, making the changes you need, taking into account your email address and subject line:

```
on(release){
    email =
"fred@youremailaddresshere.com";
    subject= "Email from the Flash
Application";
    body = "Insert your custom text in here";
    getUrl("mailto:" add email add "?subject="
add subject add "&body=" add body);
}
```

8 Use a satay

People using Netscape or older browsers not seeing your movie? Use a Flash 'satay' to get around this bug. Create a single frame movie and make sure it has the following Actionscript command in it and save it as, for example, trigger.swf:

```
_root.loadMovie(_root.path,0);
```

Now whenever you want to trigger a Flash movie, use this HTML:

```
<object type="application/x-shockwave-flash"
data="trigger.swf?path=your_flash_movie.swf"
  width="X" height="Y">
  <param name="movie"
value="trigger.swf?path=your_flash_movie.swf"
/>
```

9 Fading in and out

To make an item fade in and out, click on the graphic that you want to alter and create a range of frames on your timeframe, over which the image will fade out. Now click on the first frame (the 'Keyframe') and select the image with the 'Arrow' tool; it will be greyed out with a selection lasso.

Click on the 'Properties' panel and select 'Alpha' from the 'Colour' pull-down menu and set this to 100%. Now click on the last frame of the timeline, select the image you are working with and repeat the process, clicking on the 'Colour' menu, and this time select 0% on the 'Alpha Channel'. This will fade the image out. To fade in, repeat the process above but swap the 'Alpha Channel' around so you are moving from 0% to 100%.

10 Stop small fonts being blurred

If you are working with small fonts, you may notice that your text sometimes appears to be blurred. From the 'View' menu, make sure that 'Snap to Pixels' is checked – this will prevent any small text being blurred. If you've already created text before using Snap to Pixels, you will need to render it again from afresh, making sure that the Snap to Pixels option is selected from the menu.

Flash sites

Flash Kit

www.flashkit.com

Okay – so you've got our top ten tips, but we've only scratched the surface. If you want to make your own movies look extra special, check out Flash Kit, a site aimed at Flash developers. The site is choc-full of enough fonts, movies and tutorials to keep the thirstiest mind quenched.

Red Ice Films

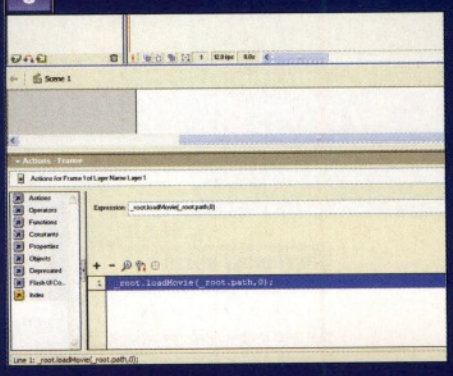
www.redicefilms.com

The great thing about using Flash in your Web site design is that it allows you to present all manner of multimedia content to your public. Red Ice Films is a film company that specialises in producing adverts, and you can see a wide variety of their campaigns at the site.

6

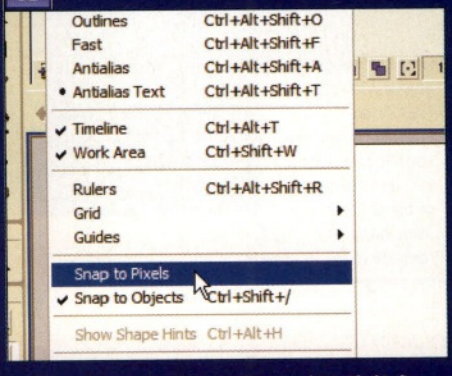
Get your own guide to keyboard shortcuts free from Macromedia

8



Use a satay if older browsers can't view your Flash movies

10



Make sure that even tiny fonts can be seen okay with this fix

In brief:
Task: Create an accessible Web site
Software I need: Dreamweaver MX/Flash MX
Difficulty: It gets quite hairy, but it's well worth it
Time I need: Give it an hour at least

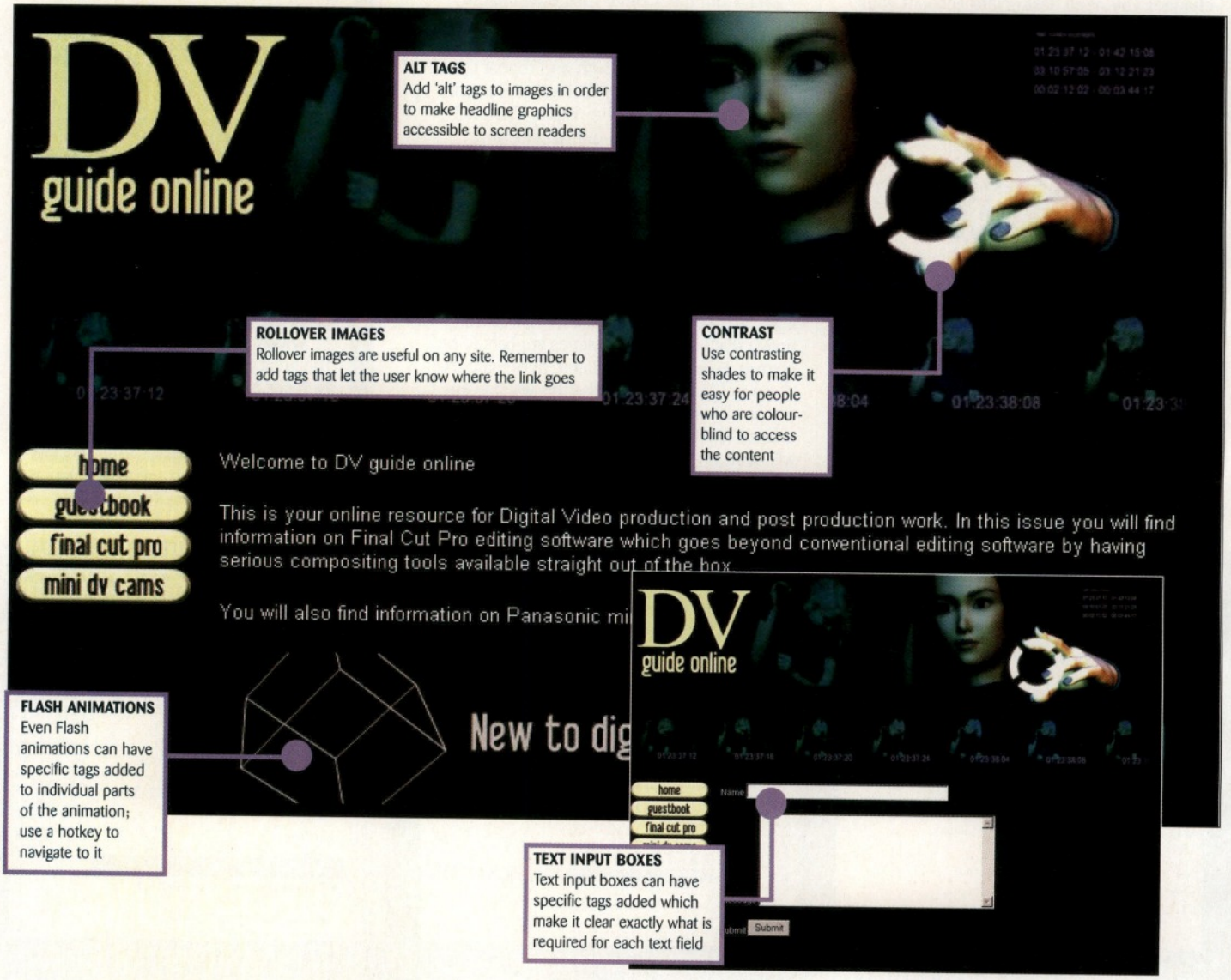
Practical internet IT'S ON THE CD

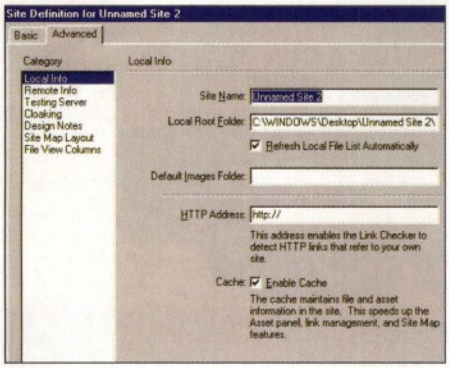
Make your Web site accessible to everybody

GET TO GRIPS WITH THE NEW ACCESSIBILITY OPTIONS AVAILABLE IN DREAMWEAVER MX AND FLASH MX TO MAKE YOUR WEB SITES FRIENDLY TO ALL VISITORS

ACCESSIBILITY MEANS MAKING Web sites usable for people with visual, auditory and other disabilities. In the past, few designers took the needs of the disabled into account, but now governments and other official bodies have established guidelines and legislation to make sites more accessible. The World Wide Web Consortium has valuable info at **www.w3.org/wai.**

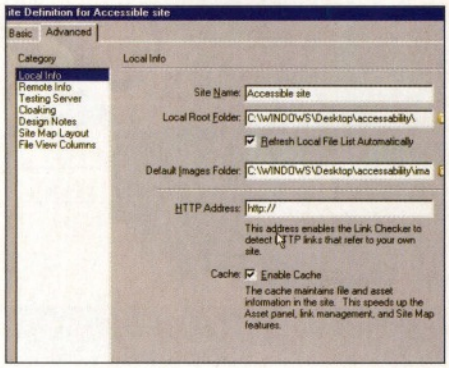
Fortunately, Dreamweaver MX and Flash MX go a long way to solving these issues. Dreamweaver lets you turn on a set of accessibility options that prompt you to add extra tags to your pages. As visually impaired people find reading difficult, they use a 'screen reader'. If your page header graphic has the title in it, the screen reader cannot read it, and that's where the extra tags come in useful. The screen reader will read these and ignore the image, making the page accessible. The tags can be added to rich media like Flash and text input fields. Flash can also embed tags into content that can be accessed by the screen reader, and moved around with keyboard navigation. In this workshop, we'll look at adding content and tags to pages like Flash animations, images and text input fields.


DV
guide online
ALT TAGS
Add 'alt' tags to images in order to make headline graphics accessible to screen readers
ROLLOVER IMAGES
Rollover images are useful on any site. Remember to add tags that let the user know where the link goes
CONTRAST
Use contrasting shades to make it easy for people who are colour-blind to access the content
home
guestbook
final cut pro
mini dv cams
Welcome to DV guide online
This is your online resource for Digital Video production and post production work. In this issue you will find information on Final Cut Pro editing software which goes beyond conventional editing software by having serious compositing tools available straight out of the box
You will also find information on Panasonic mi
New to dig
FLASH ANIMATIONS
Even Flash animations can have specific tags added to individual parts of the animation; use a hotkey to navigate to it
TEXT INPUT BOXES
Text input boxes can have specific tags added which make it clear exactly what is required for each text field
Name
Submit


Site Definition for Unnamed Site 2
Basic
Advanced
Category
Local Info
Remote Info
Testing Server
Cloaking
Design Notes
Site Map Layout
File View Columns
Site Name: Unnamed Site 2
Local Root Folder: C:\WINDOWS\Desktop\Unnamed Site 2\
Refresh Local File List Automatically
Default Images Folder:
HTTP Address: http://
This address enables the Link Checker to detect HTTP links that refer to your own site.
Cache: Enable Cache
The cache maintains file and asset information in the site. This speeds up the Asset panel, link management, and Site Map features.

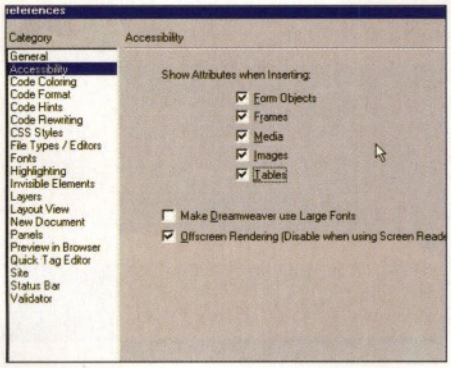
1 Copy across the files

First copy across the Accessibility Start folder from the cover CD to your PC. Then start Dreamweaver MX and define a new site. Go to the 'Site' menu, select 'New Site'; hit 'Advanced' at the top of the pop-up window to access the local info.


ite Definition for Accessible site
Basic
Advanced
Category
Local Info
Remote Info
Testing Server
Cloaking
Design Notes
Site Map Layout
File View Columns
Site Name: Accessible site
Local Root Folder: C:\WINDOWS\Desktop\accessability\
Refresh Local File List Automatically
Default Images Folder: C:\WINDOWS\Desktop\accessability\ima
HTTP Address: http://
This address enables the Link Checker to detect HTTP links that refer to your own site.
Cache: Enable Cache
The cache maintains file and asset information in the site. This speeds up the Asset panel, link management, and Site Map features.

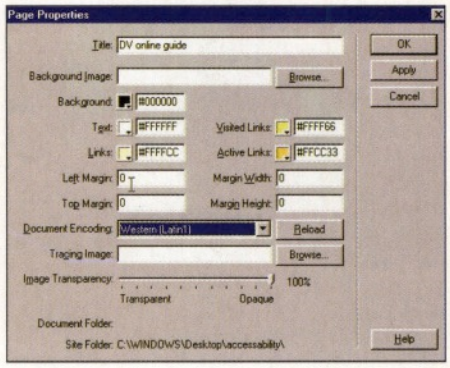
2 Set up the site

Give the site a suitable name and choose the folder you copied from the CD as your local root folder. Inside that will be an images folder – choose this as your default images folder. There's no need to fill in any FTP details unless you really want to.



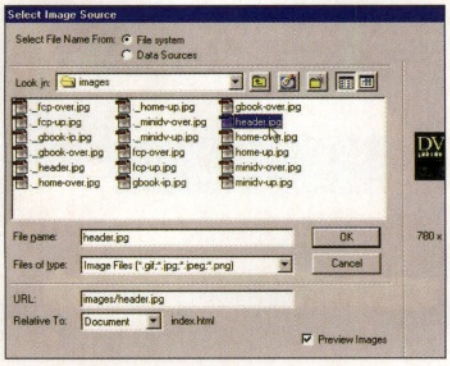
3 Accessible prompting

Dreamweaver can automatically prompt you to make your site accessible when adding content. Go to 'Edit' and choose 'Preferences'. Click the 'Accessibility' category, then click the checkboxes to 'Show attributes when inserting'. Finally, click 'OK'.



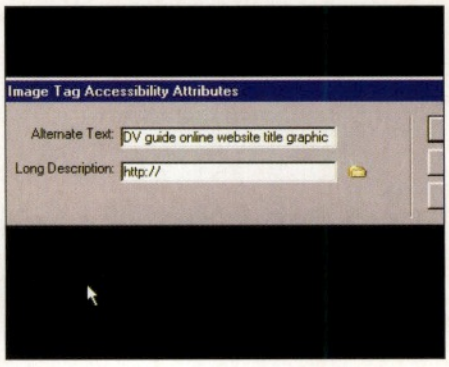
4 Change the Page Properties

Now let's set up the style of our pages. Go to 'Modify' and choose 'Page Properties'. Add a page title and make the page background black with the text white. Choose suitable light colours for the links. Then change all the margins to '0' and click 'OK'.



5 Add a header graphic

We'll add a header graphic that will appear on each page, but first let's save this page as 'index.html' in our Site folder. Click the 'Image' icon in the 'Insert' panel. In the pop-up window browse to the 'Images' folder, select the graphic 'header.jpg' and click 'OK'.



6 Image accessibility

Because we turned on the prompting to make our content accessible in Preferences, a new pop-up window appears onscreen. This prompts you for alternative text, so add a brief description. You can also link to an external text file for long descriptions.

Jargon buster

Accessibility

This is the process of making Web sites accessible to people with disabilities. The disability can be anything from colour-blindness to the visitor needing a screen reader to read the content of the site back to him or her.

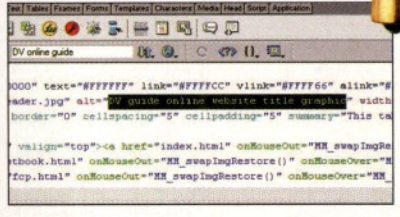
Screen reader

A screen reader basically can be set to read the contents of a page back to the user who may be visually impaired. There are a couple of different screen readers available such as JAWS for Windows and Window Eyes, but all work on the same principle. They automatically look for tags that give information about the content available on the screen, which is why it is so important to fill in your alt tags.

Alt tags

These are alternative tags to the content that are used by screen readers to pass information back to the user. For example, if you use a graphical heading on your site, you are discriminating against those who use screen readers, but add alt tags and the site is available to all. Alt tags also display on PCs while the graphics are downloading and when you hold your mouse over the image, so they do have quite a variety of uses.

Power users' tip

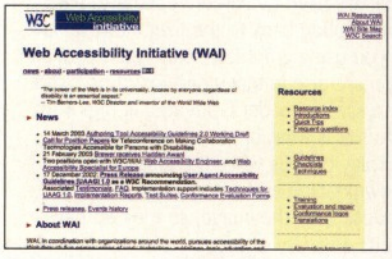

DV online guide
000" text="#FFFFFF" link="#FFFFCC" vlink="#FFFF66" alink="#
eader.jpg" alt="DV guide online website title graphic" width
border="0" cellspacing="5" cellpadding="5" summary="This ta
valign="top"><a href="index.html" onMouseOut="MM_swapImgRe
tbook.html" onMouseOut="MM_swapImgRestore()" onMouseOver="M
fcp.html" onMouseOut="MM_swapImgRestore()" onMouseOver="MM_

EDITING CONTENT YOU'VE added to the extra tags is really easy in Dreamweaver MX. Select the item that needs editing and switch to the 'Show' code and 'Design' mode in the top left corner of Dreamweaver. The section of code that refers to the object you've selected will be highlighted. If you look closely at this section you'll see alt tags which contain extra info. This can also be accessed on the Properties panel. Use the 'Code' view to edit tables and input text fields.

Web resources

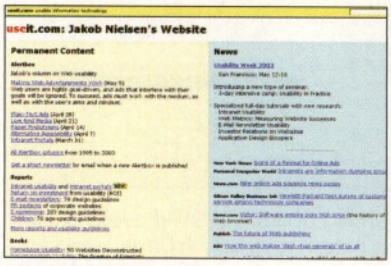
WebAIM
www.webaim.org

WebAIM is short for Web Accessibility in Mind. This site will inform you of how to create online content that is fully accessible to disabled users. There are books for sale, tips, tricks and even a screen reader simulation that allows you to understand what it is like to access the Web in the same way that a blind person does.



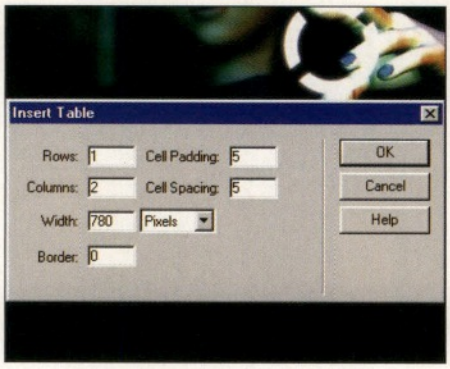
Web Accessibility Initiative
www.w3.org/wai/

This Web site is the initiative that is pushing to make all sites accessible to everyone. There are guidelines, tools and tips to help you in the creation of your accessible content.



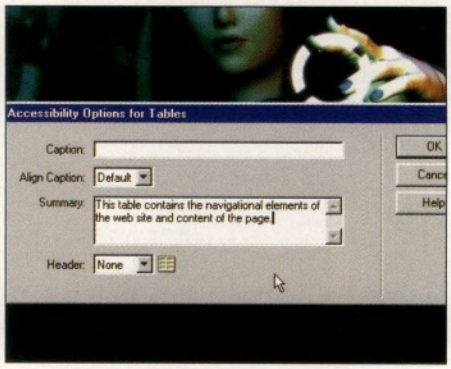
Useit.com
www.useit.com

Long before anybody even mentioned accessibility, Jakob Nielsen had pioneered the art of making a site useable. In fact, his guiding principles were created way back in 1996, but they still ring true for most sites today.



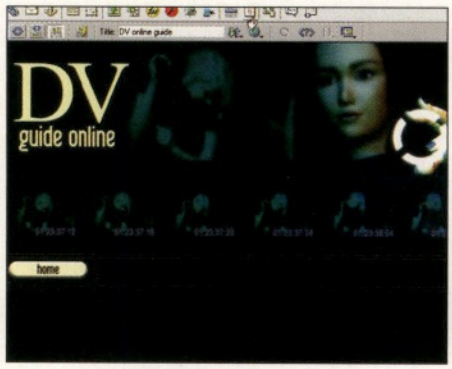
7 Insert a table

Place the cursor at the right-hand edge of the title graphic and hold down 'SHIFT' then hit 'RETURN' to add a line break. Now click the icon on the 'Insert' panel to add a table. The Insert Table pop-up window appears; add the details as shown in the screenshot.


Accessibility Options for Tables
Caption:
Align Caption: Default
Summary: This table contains the navigational elements of the web site and content of the page.
Header: None
OK
Help

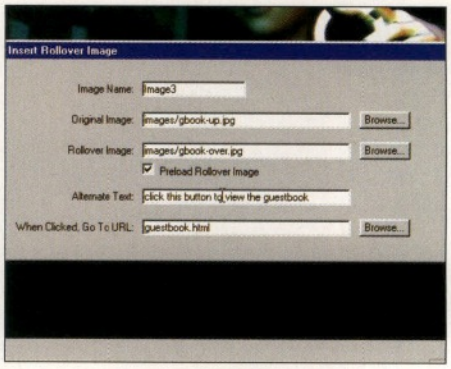
8 Table accessibility

Click 'OK' to add the table. A new pop-up window appears, prompting you to make the table accessible. Don't add a caption, as this is visible on the screen at the top of the table, which will interfere with our design. Instead add a summary.



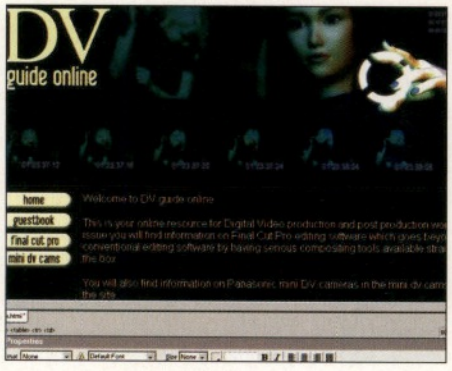
11 Navigational cell

The image appears onscreen inside the first cell of the table. This cell contains all the site's navigation buttons. Press the right cursor key to move the cursor to the image's right. Hold down 'SHIFT' and hit 'RETURN' to add a line break.



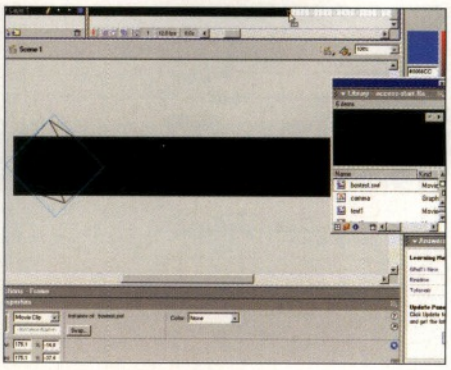
12 Add more rollovers

Click the icon again to add a rollover image. Choose the 'gbook' graphic, with up and over states adding a suitable description as the alternative text; use 'guestbook.html' as the URL. Click 'OK' to apply again, and when the image appears add a line break.



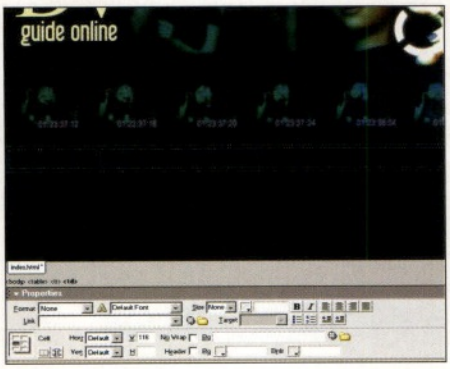
15 Add content

In the second cell add some content as shown in the above picture. We've finished for now with Dreamweaver MX, so save the page and quit the program, then start Flash MX and open the 'access-start.fla' file which is in the root folder of your site.



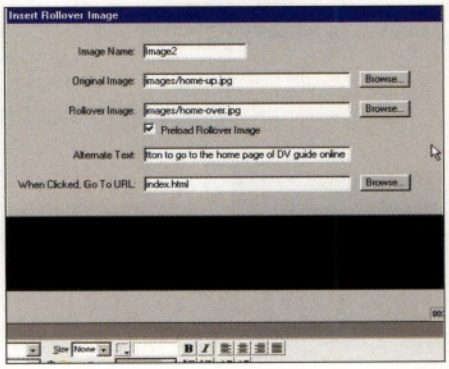
16 Getting flashy

We're going to create a little Flash animation for the bottom of the page. Press 'CTRL'+'L' to open the library and you'll see various animations and graphics in the library. Drag 'boxtest.swf' to layer 1, then select frame '100' and press 'F5'.



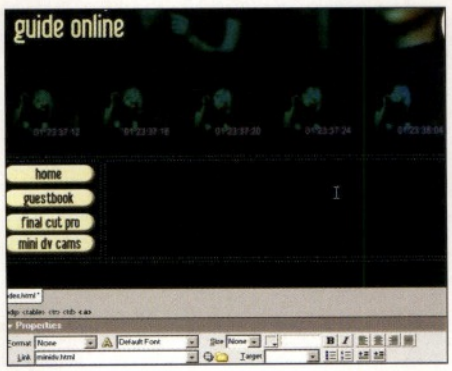
9 Table content

Click 'OK' and your table appears as normal. Click the first cell, and make the width '116' pixels in 'Properties' at the bottom. The table cells resize to reflect the change. With the cursor in the first cell, click the 'Rollover image' icon in the 'Insert' panel.



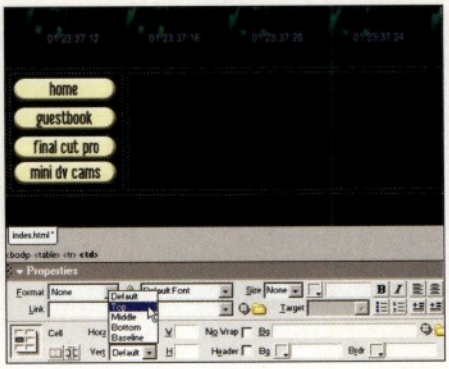
10 Rollover buttons

The Rollover Image pop-up window appears; pick 'home-up.jpg' as the original and 'home-over.jpg' as the rollover. Add alternative text to describe what the link does and fill in the URL to be visited when the button is clicked. Hit 'OK' and add the image.



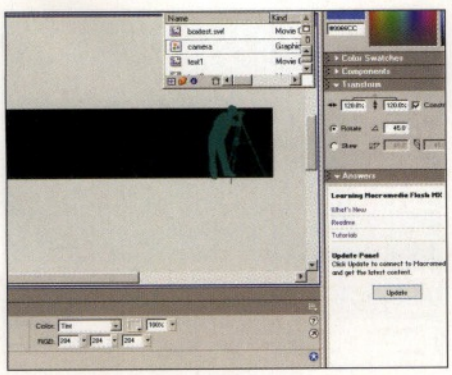
13 Finish the rollovers

Add two more rollovers for the 'final cut pro' button and the 'minidv' button, adding alternative text and a URL for each. You should end up with four rollover buttons as shown above. This is a good time to save the document and test the page: press 'F12'.



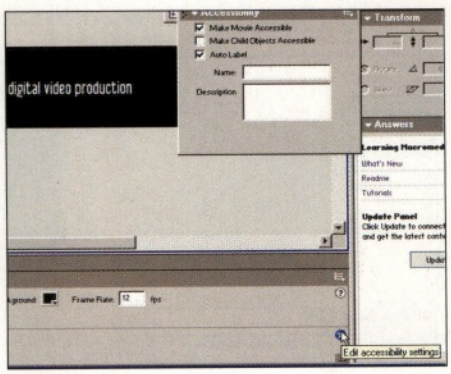
14 Align table cells

With your cursor still in the first cell, click the 'Vertical Alignment' drop menu in the 'Properties' palette at the bottom and choose to 'Align to top'. Then move to the cell next to this; the cursor will be blinking in the centre, so align this to the top as well.



17 Transform the box

Click the box and use the 'Transform' palette in the Window menu to scale it up to 120%, and rotate it 45 degrees. In the 'Properties' palette click the 'Colour' drop menu; change to a light grey. Drag the camera graphic from the library onto the stage.



18 Flip the camera

Select the 'Camera' graphic, go to 'Modify', hit 'Transform' and 'Flip Horizontal'. The camera man should now face inwards. Select 'frame 1' of layer 2; from the library drag 'text1' to the stage. With 'text1' selected, click the 'Accessibility' icon in 'Properties'.

Jargon buster

Keyframe

A keyframe is any frame where you intend an animated object to change. So if you have a graphic that you intend to rotate at frame 30 then a keyframe needs to be inserted at frame 30. You also need to put another keyframe where you intend the animation to stop, so that you can then animate between the two points.

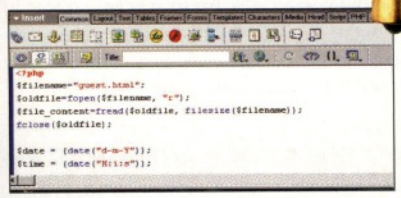
Alpha

Alpha is quite simply the transparency setting of objects. It's called 'alpha' because alpha channels in applications such as Photoshop and 3D applications refer to the transparency of the layer. Alpha can be animated so that objects appear to fade in and out like TV titles.

Tween

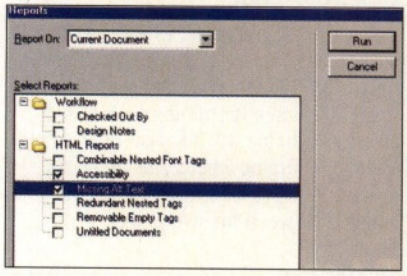
Despite sounding like a word left over from the middle ages, this is actually the process of creating animation in Flash. It gets the unusual name because it fills in the animation between two keyframes. As it works between two keyframes the word between has been shortened to tween.

Power users' tip



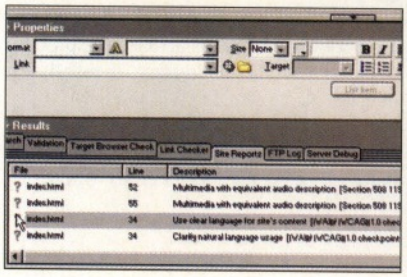
WE HAVE SHOWN you how to add extra tags for input text fields and in this example the text fields are to post comments on a guest book. The files that have been included on the cover CD will give you a fully working guestbook if you upload them to a Web server that supports PHP scripting language. A good host is **www.compila.com** who charge £12.00 per year plus VAT with a free domain name thrown in for good measure. Server scripting will not work on your local computer so you do have to go online. You may have to change the permissions of guest.html to be read and written by all if you're uploading through Dreamweaver MX.

How to...



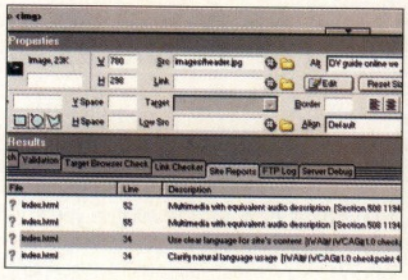
1 What's wrong

To find out if any accessible content is missing, first open a Web page, then choose 'Report' from the Site menu. A pop-up window will appear. Make sure that you select the 'Accessibility' option and the 'Missing Alt tag' text; you can select others, but they're not essential to the check.



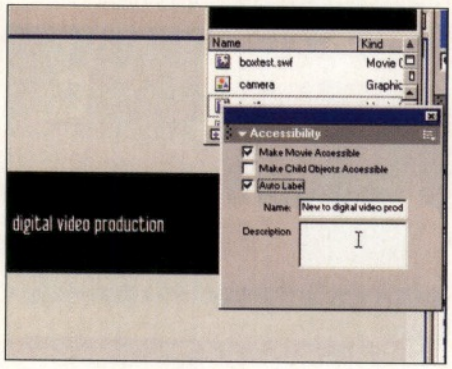
2 Reporting back

Select 'Run' and in a few seconds the Site Report will appear in the bottom of the screen with the properties moved up on the screen. The list may seem quite lengthy, but usually the problems are really easy to fix. Double-clicking on any problem reveals the necessary code.



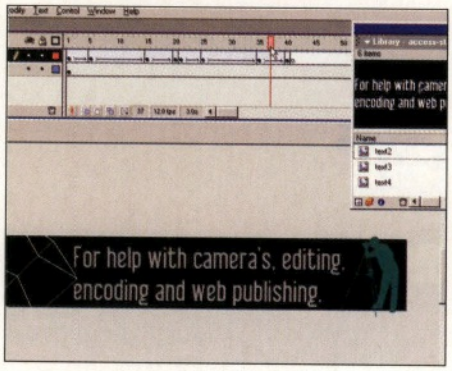
3 Fixing the problem

For this example the report is telling us to use clear language in out alt tag, so all that's required is better grammar than the few keywords that have been inserted. It's probably a good idea to run it on each page as you complete them, as this cuts down on the number of problems to fix.



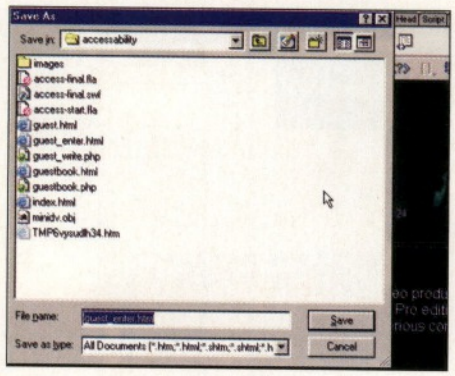
19 Add accessible content

Make sure the 'Make Movie Accessible' option is selected. There's no need to make Child Objects accessible as there's no nested animation in the movie clip. Select 'Auto label', and for the name type the same as the text inside the movie clip.



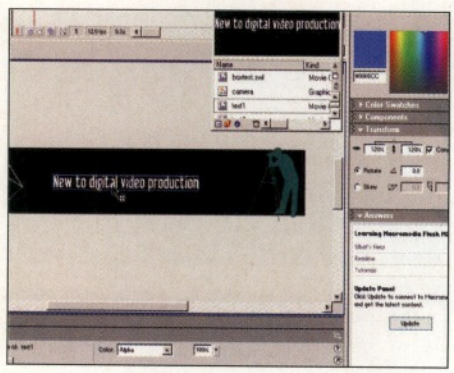
23 More text

Your animation should run from frame 21 to 40. Press 'F7' at frame 41 to remove the current text and drag in 'text 3'. Add the accessibility text to 'text 3' and animate as before from frame 41 to 60. Do the same for text 4, animating from frame 61 to 65.



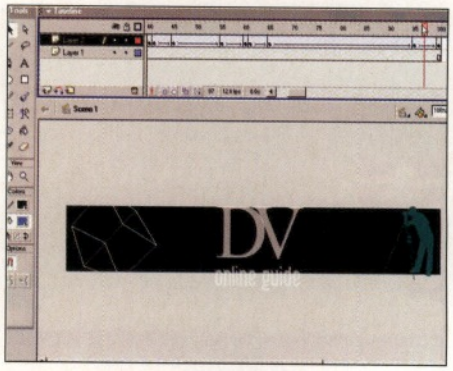
27 Save and save as

Save the index page then choose 'Save as' from the 'File' menu and save the page as 'guest_enter.html'. Now remove all the content in the cell that the Flash animation is in, so all the text is above the Flash animation and the animation itself.



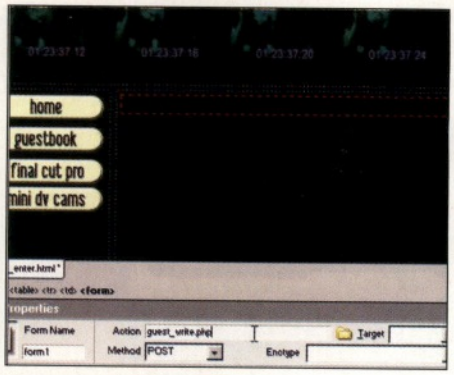
20 Animation

Close the accessible box and select the text. Change its size to '50%' in the 'Transform' palette and change the colour to 'alpha' with a value of '0' in 'Properties'. Hit 'frame 5' and 'F6' to add a keyframe. Increase the size to '120%' and the alpha to '100%'.



24 DV guide graphic

Don't add any further animation to the DV online guide graphic after frame 65, as we want it to remain on the stage for the remainder of the animation until it gets to frame 95. Then you can add a keyframe and fade it out at frame 100 as shown.

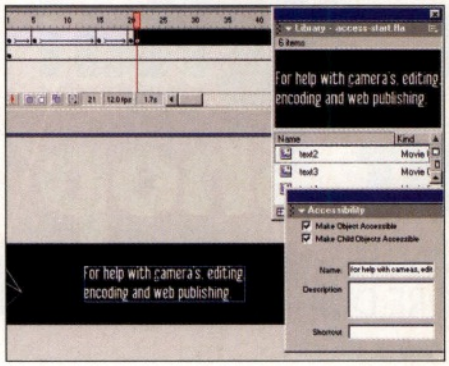


28 Insert a form

In the 'Insert' bar at the top of the screen is a line of tabs. Change the 'Common' tab to the 'Form' tab and click the first icon to insert a form. A red box appears on the screen. In the 'Properties' palette add 'guest_write.php' as the action then press 'RETURN'.

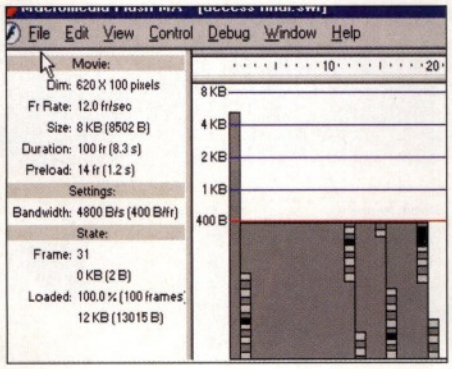
21 Scale up and fade

Select 'frame 15', hit 'F6', then 'frame 20' and hit 'F6'. At frame 20 scale the text to '300%', then change alpha value to '0%'. Select a frame between the first two keyframes; shift-click a frame between the last two. In 'Properties' change the tween to 'motion'.



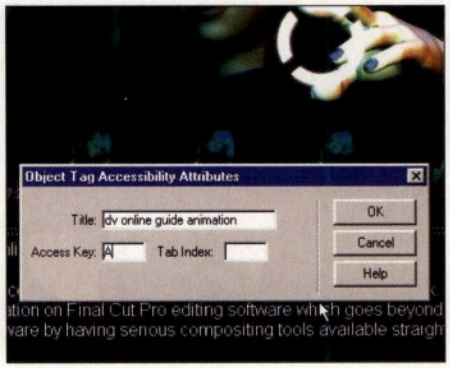
22 Frame 21

Select 'frame 21' then press 'F7' to remove the text from the stage. Select 'text 2' from the library and drag it to the stage, placing it in the centre. Press 'Accessibility'; fill in the name to be consistent with the text. Repeat steps 20 and 21 for the animation.



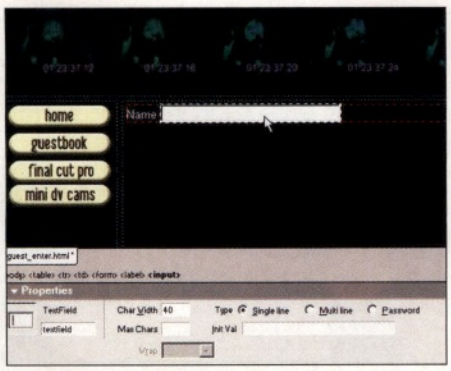
25 Export animation

From 'File' select 'Save As' and name the file 'access-final.fla'. Hit 'CTRL' + 'RETURN' to test the movie. This will also generate the file 'access-final.swf' for our index page. Save it then quit Flash MX and restart Dreamweaver, opening 'index.html'.



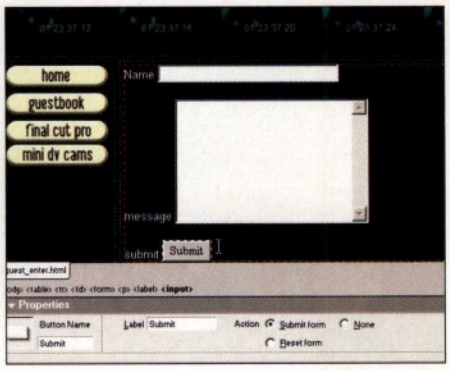
26 Insert flash

Press 'RETURN' under the text. Click the 'Flash' icon on the Insert panel, browse to 'access-final.swf' and hit 'OK'. Add a title and select 'A' as the access key. The user has to press 'CTRL'+'A' to access the accessibile parts of the animation.



29 Name field

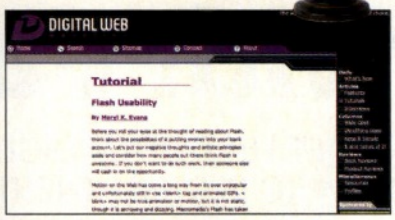
Add a text field (the second icon on the Insert bar). Give it the accessible label of 'name' then click 'OK'. In the Properties bar change the text field name from 'textfield' to 'name'. Make the character width '40'. The label 'name' is inserted.



30 Add a text area and submit

Add a text area under the text field, give it the accessible label of 'message', click 'OK'. In Properties make the text field name 'message'. Change the character width to '40' and the number of lines to '8' with a virtual wrap. Finally, add a 'Submit' button.

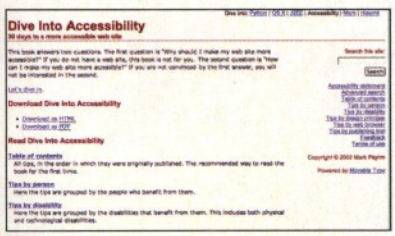
Web resources



Digital Web Magazine

www.digitalweb.com/tutorials/tutorial_2002-01.shtml

With nine out of 10 people on the Internet possessing the Flash plug-in, it's pretty important that Flash content is accessible as well. Digital Web Magazine has done a tutorial on how to make Flash material accessible – it even claims there's a lot of money to be made from doing so!



Dive Into Accessibility

diveintoaccessibility.org

This Web site has a book by the same name which is available as a download in either HTML or PDF format. The book aims to answer the question of what makes sites accessible and how they can be made accessible. You can view the book online before deciding to download.

Power users' tip

IT'S NOT JUST giving disabled people extra tags that is important. The design of your site will help people to see what's on the page a lot more clearly. For example, when designing a page, the colour scheme can be really important, especially to colour-blind users. A common form of colour-blindness can be the mix-up between red and green, so avoid using these colours together. Whenever you have designed a page and are ready to implement it, take a screenshot of the page by pressing the 'Print Screen' key on the keyboard. Paste this into your favourite image application and turn it into a greyscale image. If it isn't clear as greyscale, more contrast needs to be added.

In brief:
Task: Explore the new image-editing features in PSP8
Software I need: Paint Shop Pro 8 Beta
Difficulty: Easy
Time I need: 15 minutes

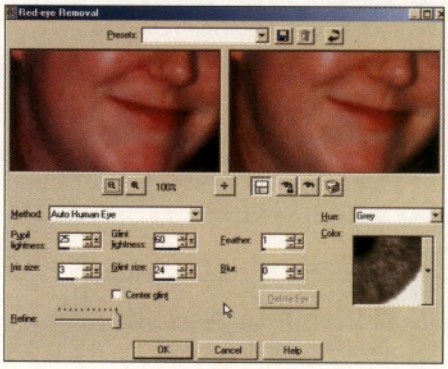
Edit your digital photos with Paint Shop Pro 8

DON'T LET DODGY DIGITAL IMAGES RUIN THAT PERFECT MOMENT. WE SHOW YOU HOW TO PERFECT THE THE MORE DIGITAL CAMERA FRIENDLY FEATURES IN PSP8

DIGITAL IMAGES RARELY look perfect first time around. Whether you've photographed or scanned your pics, the results often need just a little help from an image-editing package. Graphics software companies rely on this fact, and they don't really come much bigger than Jasc's Paint Shop Pro. Not only was it voted 'Best Graphics Program' in our 2003 Reader Awards, but number 8 was finally launched as we went to press.

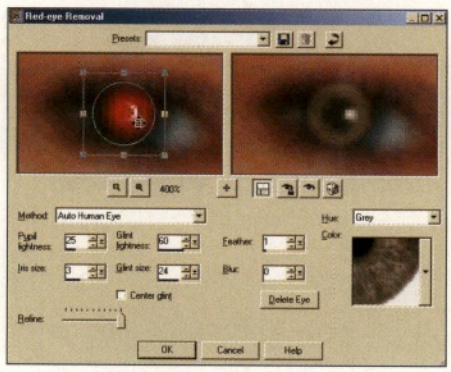
Previous versions excelled with an affordable and user-friendly approach, but the danger was that the series was becoming a bit stale. On the surface, the interface had largely gone unchanged for years, and this rewrite suggests the developer has gone full-tilt to keep users interested.

Icons within the interface have been updated but remain familiar, and there are new dockable toolbars including a browser-esque panel of buttons for recording user actions or 'Scripts'. These are mini programs generated in Python that underpin PSP8's batch processing philosophy. In this way, files are processed or manipulated 'silently' behind the front end.



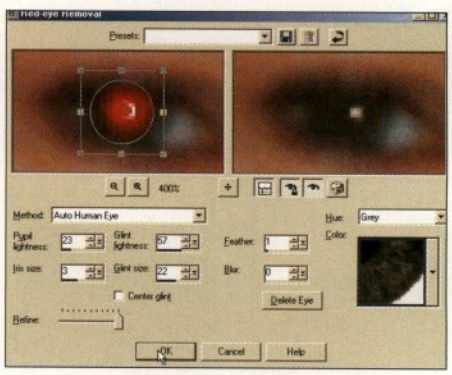
1 Red-eye removal

To get rid of red-eye, first open your red-eyed image. With no active selections click 'Enhance Photo' on the Photo toolbar. On the drop-down menu, click 'Red-eye Removal'. This opens a window with two panes for editing and previewing the image.



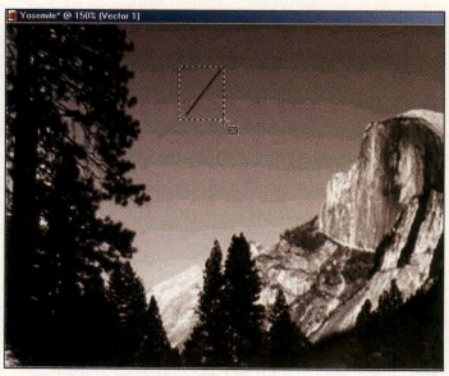
2 Eye spy

Locate the eyes by clicking and dragging the hand cursor in the right window. Zoom in using the magnify buttons. Choose 'Auto Human Eye' from the Method listbox and select the left eye. Adjust the vector handles on the new eye or click 'Delete Eye'.



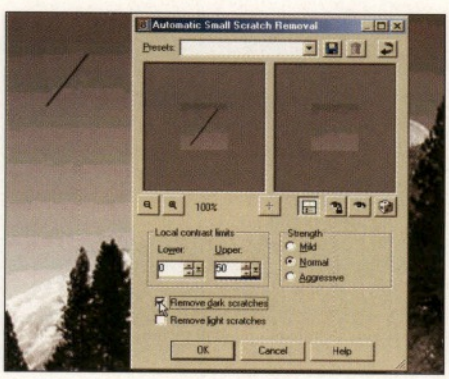
3 New eye-dear

Fine-tune the eye with the boxes for Pupil lightness, Iris and Glint sizing. This process is photo-specific, so feel free to make changes. Use a suitable eye colour from the drop-down Colour palette. Accept by clicking 'OK'.



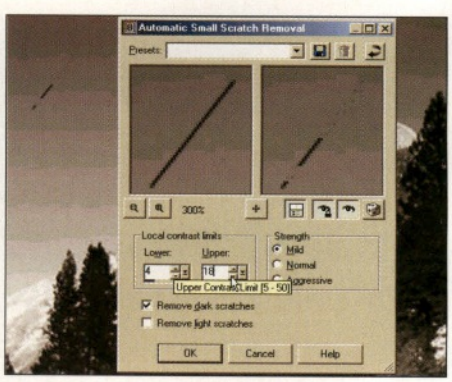
4 Scratch removal

Use the selection tools to outline the area containing the scratches. This ensures that the removal command works most efficiently and prevents the obliteration of overall image details such as fine lines or shadows.



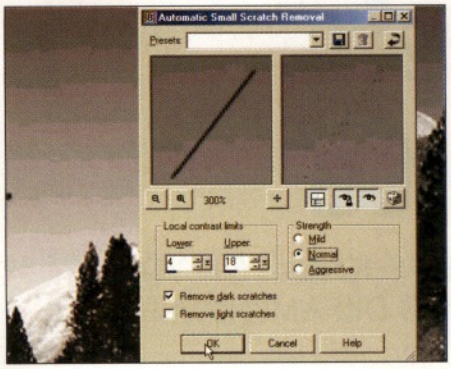
5 Scratch type

Select the 'Adjust' menu, then 'Add/Remove Noise' and 'Automatic Small Scratch Removal'. Now click the correct 'Remove dark/light scratch' checkbox depending on how the scratches contrast against the background.



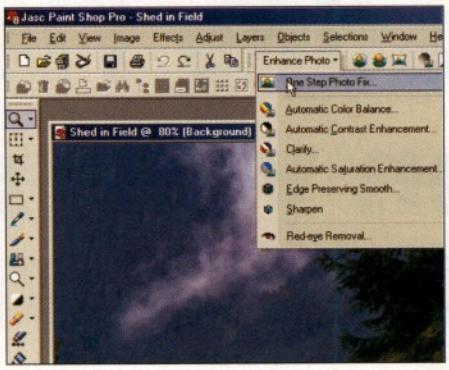
6 Damage limitation

Set the 'Lower' and 'Upper' ranges under 'Local Contrast Limits'. The default settings (0/50) will signify if the scratch removal is successful, and if so, increment/decrement the levels to just before the scratches re-appear, to reduce damage to the area.



7 Like new

Lastly, select the strength of the removal operation via the three radio buttons. Again, use the lowest setting that works and preview the effects on the image in the right pane. Click 'OK' to accept the changes and repeat where needed.



8 One Step Photo Fix

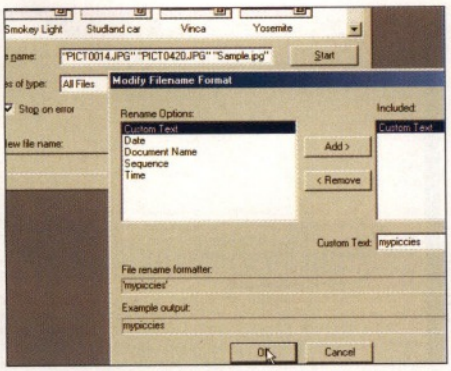
PSP8 has automated tools for correcting photo colour, contrast and definition to preset levels. These may be used separately by selecting the appropriate option from Enhance Photo. Click 'One Step Photo Fix' to optimise these settings at once.

9 The result

As if by magic the photo becomes brighter and pinpoint sharp. This shortcut mentality to various forms of photo manipulation is common in PSP8 and suggests the power of scripting in performing multiple actions behind the interface.

10 Batch renaming

A useful addition is the Batch Rename dialog. This is very useful for digital camera images where default names are vague. Open via 'File/Batch/Rename' and locate the images with the Directory listbox. Thumbnails are previewed in the window.



11 File selection

Select a group of files by highlighting and holding 'SHIFT' + 'A', or click 'Select All'. Hit 'Modify' and open the 'Rename Options' dialog. Highlight then add the 'Custom Text' parameter; type your new filename. In this instance we'll type 'mypiccies'.

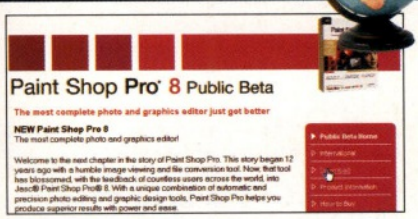
12 Unique filenames

Now add the 'Sequence' parameter to the list in the same way. Notice the digits '01' were appended to 'mypiccies' in our output box. This enumerates the filenames to make them unique, so click 'OK'. Press 'Start' in the original Batch dialog.

Power users' tip

CREATING WEB IMAGES can be troublesome if you ignore certain factors. For example, it isn't always clear which file formats popular browsers support. Similarly, problems arise if your image's colour depth is too high for some machines to display, so keeping the colour depth to 256 avoids distortion. Fortunately Paint Shop Pro 8 allows you to preview unsaved images within a Web browser. Simply select the 'View' option on the main menu and then 'Preview In Web Browser'. A dialog displays available browsers and which image formats you want to view, along with a background colour palette. Click 'Preview' and temporary files will be attached to an HTML document and opened in your chosen browser.

Web resources


Paint Shop Pro 8 Public Beta
The most complete photo and graphics editor just got better
NEW Paint Shop Pro 8
The most complete photo and graphics editor!

Paint Shop Pro 8 Beta

www.jasc.com/pbeta/psp

The Jasc site offers you the chance to preview a Beta version of PSP8, for any feedback and bug reporting purposes. This is not the final commercial version however, and any interface elements or functionality may be subject to change.

Paint Shop Pro Users Group

www.pspug.org

This unofficial forum offers tutorials, message boards and chat rooms for all those within the Paint Shop Pro community. The site was formed in 1997 and allows graphic artists and enthusiasts alike to share their knowledge.

In brief:
Task: Export your Flash objects into HTML
Software I need: Flash and Dreamweaver MX
Difficulty: Easy to intermediate
Time I need: Allow at least 20 minutes

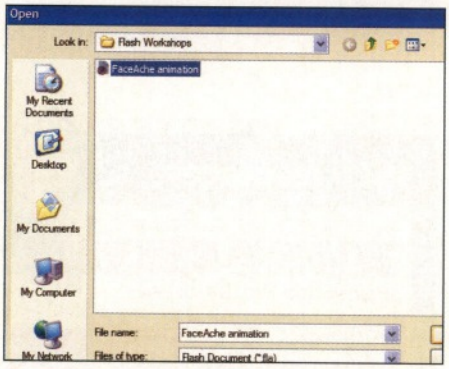
Practical internet IT'S ON THE CD

Incorporating Flash movies on your site

HAVING BUILT A FLASH MOVIE TO BE PROUD OF, IT'S TIME TO SHOVE IT ON YOUR WEB SITE. WE SHOW YOU HOW TO GET GREAT RESULTS USING DREAMWEAVER MX

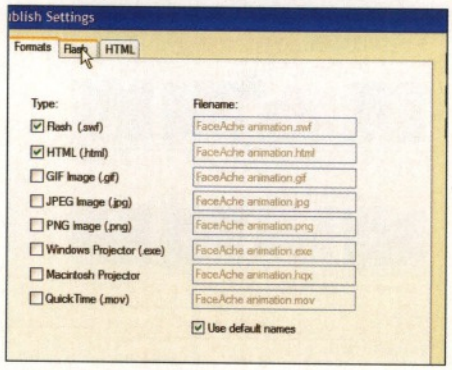
GOODNESS KNOWS IT'S hard enough to entice people to your site, let alone keep them there. Internet surfers these days are a demanding bunch with certain expectations about what kind of Web content's worth browsing. This is where dynamic design comes in, and also ultimately the emergence of Flash as the industry's top tool for the job. Those of you who use the package for creating interactive elements and animations may have found embedding your work into good old HTML quite daunting. It's all very well boasting about your latest SWF but if the world can't see it on your page it's useless, so we've decided to address this problem.

We'll start by looking at the way Flash MX enables you to 'publish' animation files into HTML format fairly simply and quickly. There's a brief glimpse of the code created when inserting a movie, and then we'll move straight into exploring how partner package Dreamweaver MX is used. You'll be adding, resizing and positioning dynamic content in no time, giving you the chance to get that once bland site truly Flashed up.



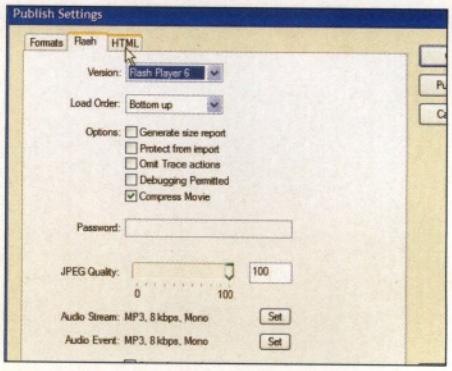
1 Open the animation

To begin we'll publish a native FLA file. Open your animation by clicking 'File' and then 'Open' from the main menu. Use the 'File Manager' dialog to find the directory where the required file is stored. Click to highlight the file and press the 'Open' button.



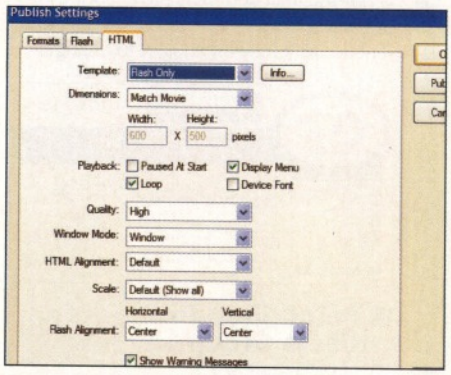
2 Publish formats

Click 'File' (main menu) and 'Publish Settings'. A dialog asks what file types are to be published along with their names. Check both boxes for creating SWF and HTML files, clearing any remaining except for 'Use default names' and hit the 'Flash' tab.



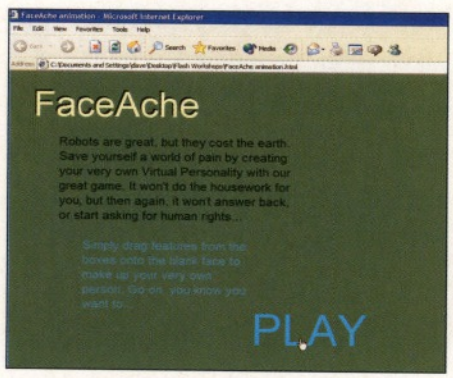
3 Flash tab

This sets options for the exported movie. 'Version' defines the Flash player needed to run it and 'Load Order' specifies the way frame layers are loaded. Default values are best, but you can lower JPEG quality to make loading faster. Now go to 'HTML'



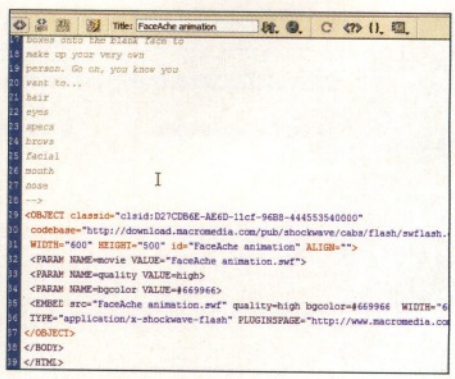
4 HTML tab

This tells Flash how to create the HTML doc. Option Template is typically set to 'Flash Only' and Dimensions is 'Match Movie'. Scaling and positioning can be done later. Set the movie 'Playback' boxes and lower 'Quality' if speeding download. Then click 'OK'.


FaceAche
Robots are great, but they cost the earth. Save yourself a world of pain by creating your very own Virtual Personality with our great game. It won't do the housework for you, but then again, it won't answer back, or start asking for human rights...
Simply drag features from the boxes onto the blank face to make up your very own person. Go on, you know you want to...
PLAY

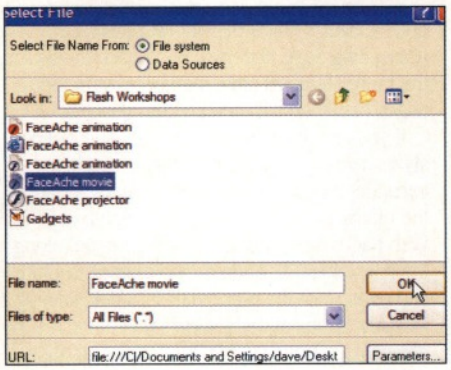
5 Publish preview

Select 'File' then 'Publish Preview' to export files and preview them in a browser. This is better than clicking 'Publish' as you can check the effects of your settings. Your new HTML page will be saved in the same directory as the original animation file.



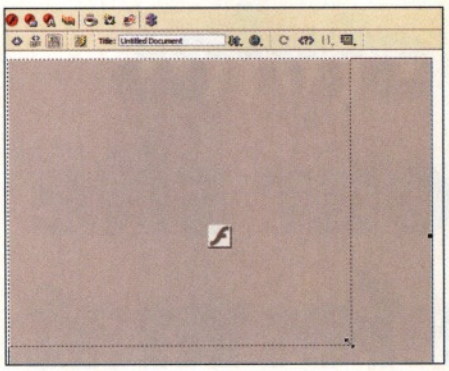
6 Code cracker

This shows code created for the published page. Your Flash settings have been used to define the movie within the Object tags. There are pointers to the SWF file and plug-in locations, while several tags are repeated for cross-browser support.



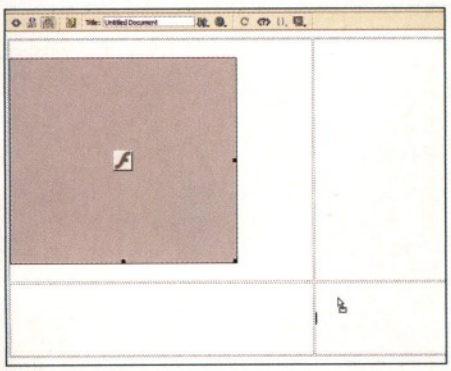
7 Another way

A more versatile method of exporting Flash movies is to import them into Dreamweaver. Open a new document; place the cursor on the page. Click 'Media' and 'Flash' on the Insert Object toolbar. Use Explorer dialog to select your SWF movie. Click 'OK'.



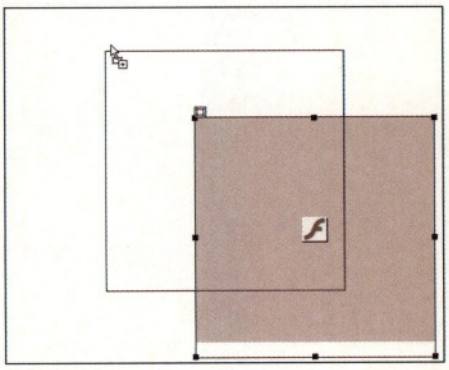
8 Resizing

Your movie is inserted onto the page, but visible only as a grey box. This is a container that represents the Flash element at edit stage, so feel free to manipulate it as you would other objects. Resize the box by clicking and dragging its edges.



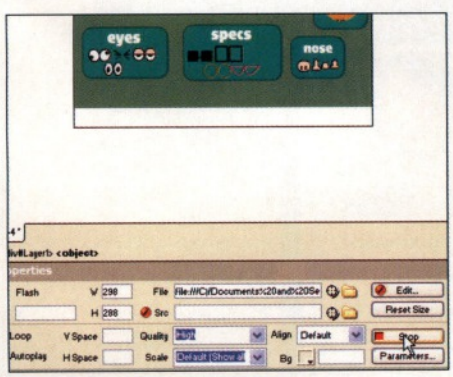
9 Table it

Positioning a movie is tougher. The element is static and won't be moved to a page location so, like other objects, must be placed inside a table. Use the 'Insert' toolbar to create a simple table beside your movie; place it in an empty cell by dragging the box.



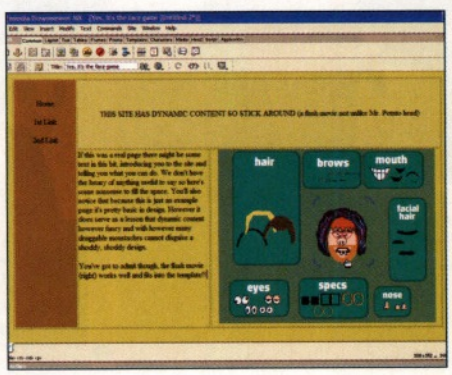
10 Layer it

Movies can also be inserted into layers. These floating panels can contain other HTML elements and sit freely on a page. Hit 'Draw Layer' on the Common tab of the Insert toolbar. Drag your movie into the layer box and situate by dragging the 'Layer' handle.



11 Properties preview

If you wish, you can preview the movie while editing. Open the 'Properties Dashboard' at the bottom by clicking the 'Properties' tab. Click your movie to select, and its details are displayed with a 'Play' button. Hit this to preview and 'Stop' to finish.



12 In a template

Here's an example of how the imported object can fit within a template. By using the previous techniques you can position the movie around other elements to achieve a desired design. Save the HTML file and try the page in your browser.

Jargon buster

Plug-in

To enable your Web browser to view certain file formats, a small program must be installed called a plug-in. Often these are downloaded automatically and configured without you knowing, but sometimes they need a helping hand. If visitors wanted to see your site containing a Flash movie, they would need the relevant plug-in to load it.

Template

In all the best design programs, this function allows you to create pages, graphics and more by simply selecting a pre-made design from a list. This method is particularly useful for beginners, as it allows you to create something impressive while learning the fundamentals.

Web resources

Macromedia online resource

www.macromedia.com/devnet

What's nice about this official site is that both Flash and Dreamweaver are supported by the people who made them. Its clean design is perfect for finding what you want quickly, be it tutorials, forums or downloads.

Flashkit developer site

www.flashkit.com

Authored by a group of Flash developers, Flashkit attempts to provide a one-stop library for fellow enthusiasts. Need some funky free images or sounds in your latest movie? Well they're all available here, along with more tutorials, forums and links.

In brief:
Task: Create a simple style sheet
Software I need: None
Difficulty: Intermediate
Time I need: 45 minutes

Add CSS styles to give your site a unique format

IN A FOLLOW-UP TO LAST ISSUE'S WORKSHOP ON REPLACING TABLE DESIGNS WITH CSS, WE TAKE A CLOSER LOOK AT WAYS OF USING CSS ON YOUR SITE

LAST ISSUE'S TUTORIAL showed how CSS (Cascading Style Sheets) can be used to replace the more standard table method of structuring pages based on row and column designs.

If you're not familiar with the ins and outs of style sheets, you may appreciate a quick introduction. Style sheets are an integral part of the official standards for making Web pages. All Web pages are supposed to be designed along the lines of HTML code providing the structure and content of the page, with CSS determining its visual appearance by either redefining the default appearances of HTML tags or creating new style identities. This means the end of filling tags with properties specifying how the subsequent section of code should appear – all this information can be defined once in a style sheet and then used as required within the page itself.

```
BODY  {
color: #000000;
background-color: #000066;
}
```

1 Setting up the style sheet

The first line of code shown above should be entered into a new empty file which you'll save as your style sheet, using a name such as 'mystyle.css'. This defines the text and background colours, using hex codes. You then need to add the code **<link rel="StyleSheet" type="text/css" href="mystyle.css">** just before the </head> tag in each page of your site.

```
    UL        {
margin-left: 0.6em;
padding-left: 0.6em;
}

    LI        {
margin-bottom: 0.5em;
}
```

2 Styling lists

Lists are a very useful HTML structure, but their default settings for indents and margins can be inappropriate, especially when the lists need to fit into a tight space. The styling above redefines the Unordered List (UL) and List Item (LI) tags accordingly, adding a small margin under each LI tag in order to separate them.

CURRENT PRODUCTIONS
The Typographer's Dream
by Adam Bock
directed by Owen Lewis
Following the success of Canadian playwright Adam Bock's Swimming In The Shallows at last year's Edinburgh Fringe, we are delighted to be producing the European premiere of his new play at this year's festival. More soon.
Told You So
by John Finnemore and Joseph
directed by Matt Applewhite
The world premiere of this mu
hijacking of Aesop's Fables pla
sell-out, extended five week r
over Christmas 2002 at Londo
Courtyard Theatre, attracting
acclaim from the national pres
Visit the mini-site for full detai

5 Hover and you'll miss it

Making links change their appearance when the visitor's mouse moves over them can help clarify their function, and also give the user valuable visual feedback. The single line of style code at the end of step four makes the underlining on links disappear temporarily, as shown above.

PREVIOUS PRODUCTIONS
Swimming In The Shallows
by Adam Bock
directed by Owen Lewis
A UK premiere both for this play and this playwright. Our production of this award-winning script attracted notable critical acclaim at Edinburgh
The Insect Play What I
adaptation from Brothers
directed by Matt Applewhit
This reimagining of The In
centred around the persor
entomological expert Profe
Prasteny and his brow-bea

6 Defining a new style class

Sometimes it's not enough to just redefine existing HTML tags as we've been doing so far. The image above shows a spaced out headline which is a custom class, created using the style code **.sectiontitle { letter-spacing:0.8em }** and called using the code ** Headline **.

This issue we'll show you how style sheets can be used to give your site a distinctive look by redefining some of the default settings associated with commonly used HTML tags. There's also an example of how to define a new style sheet class. The beauty of CSS is that these changes can be applied to an entire site by just creating one style file and referring to it from each page. When used to its full potential, CSS can stamp a unique feel on a site far more definitively than even the snazziest of graphic designs.

Expand your vocabulary

Four particular areas are covered in the steps shown here, and once you understand the basic context of style sheets, you can easily expand your vocabulary by referring to the official CSS specification, which is downloadable as an Adobe Acrobat PDF from **www.w3.org/TR/REC-CSS2**. The document is very long indeed, but using the search facilities of Acrobat and the comprehensive index, you can easily find the official line on any aspect of CSS. Although there are plenty of sites on the Net which explain CSS in a more immediately approachable way, none is as comprehensive or accurate as this official version.

One final tip before we get started: it always pays to think about how your page will appear to visitors who can't use style sheets for whatever reason, whether as a result of browser incompatibility or a Net connection failure or some other reason. You can easily put this to the test by disabling 'Style Sheets' in your browser preferences or by temporarily renaming your style sheet file. In theory, a well-designed Web page will work without any styling, and should actually be more accessible to users of unconventional Web access methods such as mobile phone browsers.

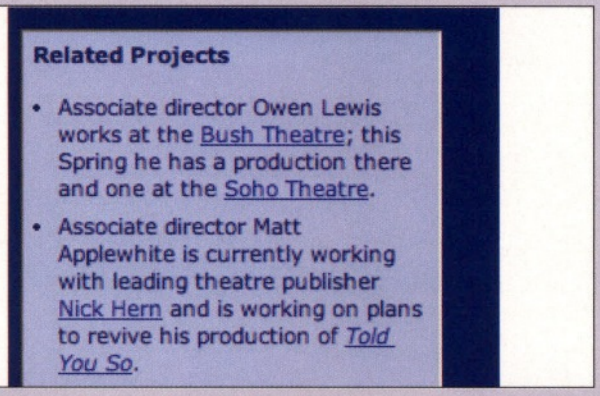
Jargon buster

Style definition

An individual entry in a style sheet which specifies how one particular entity should be styled. You can either redefine existing HTML entities or create your own – ie you could specify the appearance of all H1 tags or create a style sheet class (see below).

Class

This is a type of style sheet item which is created afresh and identified by a name of the designer's choosing. Class names are prefixed by a full stop symbol in the style sheet, but this is omitted when naming the class as part of a DIV tag property, eg


Related Projects
• Associate director Owen Lewis works at the Bush Theatre; this Spring he has a production there and one at the Soho Theatre.
• Associate director Matt Applewhite is currently working with leading theatre publisher Nick Hern and is working on plans to revive his production of Told You So.

3 Our list style in action

While this screenshot shows the text at a fairly standard size, some users set their browsers to display fonts at different sizes, and the use of 'em' measurements in the style means that the margins will resize in proportion to the size of the text they surround.

```
A:link    { color: #000099 }
A:visited { color: #0000CC }
A:active  { color: #3333FF }

A:hover   { text-decoration: none; }
```

4 Styling links

There are three colours to attribute to links – the standard one, the colour that's visible when a link destination has already been visited, and the colour that appears while the user clicks on the link. These are defined in the order shown above. The last line adds a special effect, which you can see in action in step five.

```
.boxlight {
  background: #9999FF;
  border: thick inset white;
  }
```

7 Styling borders

Here's another custom class, this time used to define the appearance of a box on the page. The border property in CSS is immensely powerful, and based on the triple combination of thickness, style and colour. You can use numeric measurements and colour codes instead of the words shown here.

8 Beautiful borders

The different border style options available to you are: dotted, dashed, solid, double (two separate lines), groove, ridge, inset and outset. The careful use of different borders can make a page very distinctive, and certainly helps in the example shown here to set this box apart from the others on the screen.

In brief:
Task: Create an online calculator
Software I need: JavaScript
Difficulty: Intermediate
Time I need: 40 minutes

Give visitors an online calculator with JavaScript

CREATE YOUR OWN DYNAMIC CALCULATOR USING A LITTLE MATHEMATICAL MAGIC

THIS MONTH, WE'LL show you how to create your very own dynamic calculator. This will allow users to perform basic calculations such as adding, subtracting, dividing and multiplying. It'll also give you an insight into manipulating form fields, simulating mathematical functions and creating a reasonably advanced user interface.

We'll use form fields and buttons for the purposes of displaying results and taking the user's input, and a number of JavaScript functions to process this information and deliver the end result. In this case, we're also going to be using style sheets to give our page that 'calculator' look and feel.

In principle, creating a calculator with JavaScript sounds like a reasonably simple task. We merely have to take the input from the user and run this through an eval() method to get the relevant results. But it isn't as easy as it sounds.

```
<html><head><title>Calculator</title></head>
<style>
    .cal_body { background-color:#BBBBBB; border:
    1pt solid #000000; }
    button { height:30; width:30; }
    #cal_display { width:140; border:1pt solid
      #000000; font-size:14pt; font-family:lucida
      console; text-align:right;}
    td { text-align:center; }
</style>
```

1 Set the style sheet

Create a new text file named **calculator.html** and enter the above code. This code sets the style sheet, so our calculator actually looks like a calculator. Feel free to mess around with the style sheet to give it the look and feel you want. This won't affect the script itself.

```
<script>
function loadVars() {
    v4 = (parseInt(navigator.appVersion)>=4 &&
    parseInt(navigator.appVersion)<=5)?1:0;
    ie = (navigator.appName == "Microsoft
    Internet Explorer" && v4)?1:0;
    ns = (navigator.appName == "Netscape" &&
    v4)?1:0;
    if (ns) { objDisplay =
    document.getElementById("cal_display"); }
    if (ie) { objDisplay = cal_display; }
    strInput = "";
    strCalculation = "";
    strResult = "";
    objDisplay.value = "0"; }
```

2 Set the variables

Our first function sets the different variables our script is going to need in order to work properly. This function is called by <body> using the onload event. This code also identifies which browser the user is using so we can make sure the code works on different platforms.

```
    else if (chrDigit == "=") {
      eval("strResult = " + strCalculation +
    strInput);
      objDisplay.value = strResult;
      strCalculation = "";
      strInput = ""; }
    else {
      if (strInput == "" && chrDigit == ".") {
    strInput = "0."; }
      else { strInput = strInput + chrDigit; }
      objDisplay.value = strInput;
      if (strInput == "0") { strInput = ""; } } }
```

5 The sum of the parts

If the "=" button has been pressed, we place the calculation in the strResult variable, and then output that to the text field. If any other button is pressed, we place it in the strInput variable, checking to make sure certain characters (such as "." or "0") are taken care of.

```
function clearDisplay() {
    strInput = "";
    objDisplay.value = "0"; }
function clearAll() {
    strInput = "";
    strCalculation = "";
    strResult = "";
    objDisplay.value = "0"; }
</script>
```

6 Clear the display

Finally, we create two further functions. The first of these clears the display and strInput. This is called whenever the user clicks on the "CE" button. The second function clears the script entirely, and is called whenever the user clicks on the "C" button.

Besides the ever-present burden of writing JavaScript code that functions on a number of different platforms (Internet Explorer and Netscape Navigator), there are other quirks you need to take into account for this script to work properly.

A few surprises

First and foremost is getting your JavaScript calculator to work like a normal calculator. For simple equations, your computer can perform just as adequately as a calculator, but if you get into complicated, longwinded arithmetic, you might find some surprising results.

For example, running "2 + 2" through the eval() method will give you "4". However, if you run "2 + 2 * 10" through the eval() method, you'll get "22" instead of the "40" you would expect. This is because of the 'precedence' of each operator used in the sum. In other words, the "*" operator has a higher precedent then the "+" operator. Precedence is an important part of all programming and scripting languages, and can usually be controlled in a number of ways (such as using brackets). In this case, we're simply going to split our sum up, passing each equation through the eval() function as and when it's entered. In the above case, we'd process "2 + 2" first, and then multiply the result by "10", and we'd do this as the figures were being inputted.

We may also need to simulate a number of other functions, such as the 'clear' buttons. The first of these ("CE") only needs to clear the current figure, while the second ("C") needs to clear the entire sum so we can begin again.

This script only lets you add, subtract, divide and multiply, but it shouldn't be hard to add other mathematical functions to your calculator. Feel free to experiment and play around with the code.

Jargon buster

Precedence
The importance of various different expressions and operators according to the programming language you're using. These are similar to normal arithmetical precedence, but include logical operators (such as "&&" or "||") and comparison operators (such as "==" or "!=") as well.

Style sheets
Stylistic instructions giving more control over a page. They can dictate text colour and font, and the position of elements and can appear between <style> tags, inside another tag using the style property, or in a separate file, linked to with the <link> tag.

```
function inputDigit(thisButton) {
    chrDigit = thisButton.id;
    if (objDisplay.value.length > 12) {
    objDisplay.value = "E"; } }
    if (objDisplay != "E") {
```

3 Push the right buttons

The next function is the most important, and is called whenever the user clicks on a calculator button. First it takes the ID of the button and places it in chrDigit, then it checks to make sure the value in the calculator display isn't too long to be displayed.

```
    if (chrDigit == "+" || chrDigit == "-" ||
    chrDigit == "/" || chrDigit == "*") {
      if (strInput != "" && strResult == "") {
              strResult = strInput;
              strInput = ""; }
      if (strCalculation == "") {
              strCalculation = strResult +
    chrDigit; }
      else {
              eval("strResult = " +
    strCalculation + strInput);
              objDisplay.value = strResult;
              strCalculation = strResult +
    chrDigit;
              strInput = ""; } }
```

4 Check the input

When the user selects an operator, we check our previous input and place it in the relevant variable. If this is the second part of our calculation, we output the result. Otherwise we put the figure and operator in strCalculation and wait for the second part of the sum.

```
<body onLoad='loadVars();'>
<table class='cal_body' cellpadding='3'>
    <tr><td colspan='4'><input type='text'
    id='cal_display' readonly></td></tr>
    <tr><td> </td><td> </td>
    <td><button onClick='clearDisplay()'>CE</but-
    ton></td>
    <td><button onClick='clearAll()'>C</but-
    ton></td></tr>
    <tr><td><button id='1'
    onClick='inputDigit(this)'>1</button></td>
    <td><button id='2'
    onClick='inputDigit(this)'>2</button></td>
    <td><button id='3'
    onClick='inputDigit(this)'>3</button></td>
    <td><button id='+'
    onClick='inputDigit(this)'>+</button></td></tr
    >
```

7 Make it so

The HTML in this page will create our calculator, lay it out as appropriate, and call the relevant scripts. The <body> tag calls loadVars() when it finally loads, then a table is created in which we'll be placing the various form elements that make up our calculator.

```
        <tr><td><button id='4'
        onClick='inputDigit(this)'>4</button></td>
        <td><button id='5'
        onClick='inputDigit(this)'>5</button></td>
        <td><button id='6'
        onClick='inputDigit(this)'>6</button></td>
        <td><button id='-' onClick='inputDigit(this)'>-
        </button></td></tr>
        <tr><td><button id='7'
        onClick='inputDigit(this)'>7</button></td>
        <td><button id='8'
        onClick='inputDigit(this)'>8</button></td>
        <td><button id='9'
        onClick='inputDigit(this)'>9</button></td>
        <td><button id='*'
        onClick='inputDigit(this)'>*</button></td></tr>
        <tr><td><button id='0'
        onClick='inputDigit(this)'>0</button></td>
        <td><button id='.'
        onClick='inputDigit(this)'>.</button></td>
        <td><button id='='
        onClick='inputDigit(this)'>=</button></td>
        <td><button id='/'
        onClick='inputDigit(this)'>/</button></td></tr>
</table></body></html>
```

8 Form elements

There are a good number of form elements in our table. Most of these are <button>, which call the inputDigit() function when clicked. An <input> tag (set to 'readonly') acts as our calculator's display (see step seven). Now you can save this code and test it.

In brief:
Task: Create a virtual shopping trolley using MySQL and PHP
Software I need: Notepad, IE4+ or NS4+, and a server that supports MySQL and PHP
Difficulty: Advanced
Time I need: 90 minutes

PART TWO

Create a product catalogue with PHP and MySQL

THIS MONTH'S ECOMMERCE TUTORIAL SHOWS YOU HOW TO REMEMBER USERS' PURCHASING REQUIREMENTS USING A VIRTUAL SHOPPING TROLLEY BUILT WITH PHP AND MYSQL

BEFORE YOU EVEN START on security, transaction validation and logistics, you should think long and hard about how you're going to present info on products, catalogue the items, and allow the user to select and modify their choices. Putting together a good 'front end' catalogue application is half the battle.

This is the second part of our three-part tutorial showing how to create and maintain the 'front end' of an eCommerce application with PHP and MySQL. Last month we focused on creating a dynamic, database-driven catalogue of products. This time we take you through the process of setting up a 'shopping trolley' that will remember the products the user chose, and set them out before they go to the virtual checkout.

Our shopping trolley needs to do a number of things. It needs to remember the user's choice of products, allow them to add, modify and

```
<?
function createTrolley() {
    $timeout_seconds = 86400;
    $timeout = time() + $timeout_seconds;
    mysql_query("insert into trolley values (NULL,
    '".$_ENV["REMOTE_ADDR"]."', ".$timeout.")"); }
function checkTimeout() {
    $to = mysql_query("select trolleyid from trol-
    ley where timeout < ".time());
    for ($i = 0; $i < mysql_num_rows($to); $i++) {
      $data = mysql_fetch_array($to);
    deleteTrolley($data["trolleyid"]); } }
function deleteTrolley($id) {
    mysql_query("delete from trolley where trol-
    leyid = ".$id);
mysql_query("delete from trolley_items where trol-
    leyid = ".$id); }
```

1 Maintain the catalogue

We start our code by declaring the functions. 'checkTimeout' and 'deleteTrolley' check to see if a shopping trolley has been inactive for a certain period of time and delete it if it has. 'checkTimeout' is called at the beginning of the script. 'createTrolley' creates a new trolley, referencing it by the user's IP address.

```
function displayTrolley($trolley) {
    $timeout_seconds = 86400;
    $timeout = time() + $timeout_seconds;
    mysql_query("update trolley set timeout =
    ".$timeout." where trolleyid = ".$trolley);
echo "<form action='checkout.php'
    method='get'><input type='hidden' name='trol-
    leyid' value='".$trolley."'>";
echo "<table><tr style='font-weight:bold'><td
    width=250>Product</td><td width=80 align=cen-
    ter>Qty</td><td width=100
    align=center>Price</td><td width=100
    align=center>Total</td></tr>";
$it = mysql_query("select itemid, productid, quan-
    tity from trolley_items where trolleyid =
    ".$trolley);
    for ($i = 0; $i < mysql_num_rows($it); $i++) {
      $it_data = mysql_fetch_array($it);
$pr_data = mysql_fetch_array(mysql_query("select
    name, price from products where productid =
    ".$it_data["productid"]));
```

2 Displaying the trolley

The 'displayTrolley' function displays the shopping trolley when called, formatting it as requested. It lays out a table, searches for the relevant items in the 'trolley_items' database, and then connects to the product database to get the relevant data. It also updates the timeout value on the current trolley.

```
function editItem($item, $type) {
    if (!mysql_num_rows($it)) { echo "<p>There has
    been an error. Please contact the systems
    administrator.</p>"; } else {
$it_data = mysql_fetch_array(mysql_query("select
    quantity from trolley_items where itemid =
    ".$item));
      if ($type == "add") { $newQty =
    $it_data["quantity"] + 1; }
      else if ($type = "sub") { $newQty =
    $it_data["quantity"] - 1; }
if ($newQty) { mysql_query("update trolley_items
    set quantity = ".$newQty." where itemid =
    ".$item); }
      else { removeItem($item); } } }
```

5 Editing quantity

'editItem' is called when the user wishes to change the number of products they have in their trolley. The function checks to make sure the item is in the trolley before calculating the new value and updating the record in the 'trolley_items' table.

```
function removeItem($item) {
    mysql_query("delete from trolley_items where
    itemid = ".$item);
    $tr = mysql_query("select trolleyid from trol-
    ley where ip = '".$_ENV["REMOTE_ADDR"]."' ");
    $tr_data = mysql_fetch_array($tr);
    $it = mysql_query("select itemid from
    trolley_items where trolleyid =
    ".$tr_data["trolleyid"]);
    if (!mysql_num_rows($it)) {
    deleteTrolley($tr_data["trolleyid"]); } }
```

6 Removing items

If the user reduces the quantity of a particular item to zero, the 'removeItem' function is called. This deletes that particular item from the trolley, then checks to make sure there are still items in the trolley. If the trolley is empty, it calls the 'deleteTrolley' function.

remove potential purchases, and present them with info on price, postage and packaging, plus the total cost of the purchase. The most effective way of doing this is to create a membership-based application, but an alternative is to remember the user and their transactions via their IP address.

Limited shelf-life

We should retain any shopping trolley for only a limited time, or our database will become clogged with old trolley info. To this end, we'll put a time-stamp on each trolley, incorporating a function in our script that will detect old shopping trolleys and delete them if they've been inactive for over a day.

Below you'll find the code that will set up the necessary tables in the MySQL database we created last month. Type this into MySQL manually, or save it to a separate text file and run it through MySQL from the Command prompt:

```
use catalogue;
create table trolley (
  trolleyid int unsigned not null
auto_increment primary key,
  ip varchar(40),
  timeout int unsigned not null );
create table trolley_items (
  itemid int unsigned not null auto_increment
primary key,
  trolleyid int unsigned,
  productid int unsigned,
  quantity int unsigned );
```

Once the database is set up, you're ready to start putting together the script. This month we're creating one page that will handle adding products to the shopping trolley, changing the quantity of these products, and also removing the products.

Jargon buster

IP

The IP (Internet Protocol) address is a reference to a particular computer or resource located on the Net. This can be anything from a Web server to the computer you're using to surf the Net. Your IP address is sent as part of the HTTP header when you request an online resource.

Type

Every variable has a 'type'. This refers to the type of info it stores – anything from an integer (number) to a string of text. Programs like PHP and JavaScript don't have rigid variables, so it's easy to use a variable in a variety of ways. Java and C do have rigid variables, so be very careful how you use them in these languages.

```
echo "<tr><td>".$pr_data["name"]."</td><td
    align=center>";
echo "<a
    href='trolley.php?action=edit&item=".$it_data["i
    temid"]."&type=sub'>-</a> ".$it_data["quanti-
    ty"];
echo " <a
    href='trolley.php?action=edit&item=".it_data["it
    emid"].&type=add'> </a></td><td align=cen-
    ter>£".$pr_data["price"]."</td>";
echo "<td
    align=center>£".makePrice($pr_data["price"] *
    $it_data["quantity"]). </td></tr>";
$totalPrice = $totalPrice + ($pr_data["price"] *
    $it_data["quantity"]); }
echo "<tr><td colspan='3'><b>Shipping</b></td><td
    align=center>£2.50</td></tr>";
echo "<tr><td colspan='3'><b>Total</b></td><td
    align=center>£".makePrice($totalPrice +
    2.5)."</td></tr></table>";
    echo "<p><input type='submit' value='Go to
    Checkout'></p></form>"; }
```

3 Output product data

The second part of 'displayTrolley' displays each product contained within the trolley, giving the user the option to edit the quantity of each item, and showing them the total price. The 'makePrice' function is used when showing the price to format it correctly (with two decimal places).

```
function addItem($p) {
    $err = mysql_query("select productid from prod-
    ucts where productid = ".$p);
if (!mysql_num_rows($err)) { echo "<p>There has been
    an error. Please contact the systems administra-
    tor.</p>"; } else {
if (!mysql_num_rows(mysql_query("select trolleyid from
    trolley where ip = '".$_ENV["REMOTE_ADDR"]."'")))
    { createTrolley(); }
$tr_data = mysql_fetch_array(mysql_query("select trol-
    leyid from trolley where
    ip='".$_ENV["REMOTE_ADDR"]."'"));
$pr = mysql_query("select itemid from trolley_items
    where productid = ".$p." and trolleyid =
    ".$tr_data["trolleyid"]);
if (!mysql_num_rows($pr)) { mysql_query("insert into
    trolley_items values (NULL, ".$tr_data["trol-
    leyid"].", ".$p.", 1)"); } } }
```

4 Adding items

The addItem function adds products to the user's trolley. First it checks to make sure the product actually exists, and if a trolley already exists (calling 'createTrolley' if one doesn't). It then checks to see if the user already has the product in the trolley. Once this is done, it adds the product to 'trolley_items'.

```
function makePrice($thisPrice) {
    $thisPrice = $thisPrice * 100;
    settype($thisPrice, "integer");
    $thisPrice = $thisPrice / 100;
    settype($thisPrice, "string");
    if (!strpos($thisPrice, ".")) { return
    $thisPrice.".00"; }
    if (strlen(substr($thisPrice, strpos($thisPrice,
    "."))) < 3) { $thisPrice = $thisPrice."0"; }
    return $thisPrice; }
```

7 Formatting the price

The 'makePrice' function allows us to format prices correctly, ensuring that there are two decimal places at the end of all our prices. We use a number of functions and techniques, including setting the type to 'string' and checking to make sure a decimal place is present.

```
<html><head><title>Shopping
    Trolley</title></head><body>
<style> a { text-decoration:none; } </style>
<h1>Shopping Trolley</h1><?
checkTimeOut();
switch($HTTP_GET_VARS["action"]) {
    case "add" : addItem($HTTP_GET_VARS["prod-
    uct"]); break;
    case "edit" : editItem($HTTP_GET_VARS["item"],
    $HTTP_GET_VARS["type"]); break; } ?>
$tr = mysql_query("select trolleyid from trolley
    where ip = '".$_ENV["REMOTE_ADDR"]."'");
if (!mysql_num_rows($tr)) {   echo "<p>Sorry, but
    your shopping trolley appears to be
    empty.</p>"; }
else { $tr_data = mysql_fetch_array($tr);
    displayTrolley($tr_data["trolleyid"]); } ?>
<p><a href='catalogue.php'>Click here</a> to con-
    tinue shopping.</p>
</body></html>
```

8 The HTML

This is where the script is executed. First we call the 'checkTimeOut' function to check for and delete old shopping trolleys. Once this is done, we check the 'get' variables to see what action the user has requested, calling the relevant function. Finally, we display the trolley (if one exists).

Q&A
Webmaster Q&A

JAMES SEABRIGHT ANSWERS YOUR WEB SITE BUILDING QUERIES. EMAIL HIM AT **HELPDESK@PARAGON.CO.UK**

Stop 'bandwidth thieves' nicking your work by using some inengious tactics

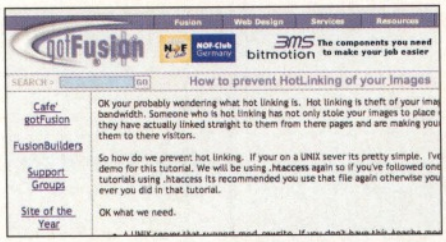
Linking lockout

Q One of the pages on my personal Web site monitors the weather in my home town. It's just an HTML page that combines a bunch of images from a number of different news sites into one page. Recently one of the images has disappeared, and all I get instead is a message saying the map is not available. Any idea what's going on?

Georgina Dixon

A **Linking directly to an image on one site and displaying it on your own site sounds like an infringement of copyright. Although most of the big Web sites haven't got time to track down every infringement, an increasing number are preventing individual images being served for inclusion on other Web pages. This is done by detecting the referring page, which has sent the request for the image. If the referrer is not an authorised site, the graphic is substituted for a message such as the one you describe.**

Any readers out there who are interested in how this is done or how they could implement such a system on their own site can find details at a number of places on the Web, including www.websiteowner.info/tutorials/server/bandwidththeft.asp. The simplest solution requires a level of Web server reconfiguration only normally provided on good quality paid-for hosting accounts. As you may notice from the URL just mentioned, some people call this sort of linking practice 'bandwidth theft'. It can be a frustrating feature of running a site – I experienced this recently when an image on a site I maintain was featured completely out of context in a popular Web-based discussion forum. The resulting increase in hits made a big dent in the site's bandwidth allocation and completely messed up the access logs as well.



Another site with tips on how to stop 'bandwidth thieves' from making off with valuable chunks of ether can be found at www.gotfusion.com/tutsTC/hotlink.cfm

Frame busters

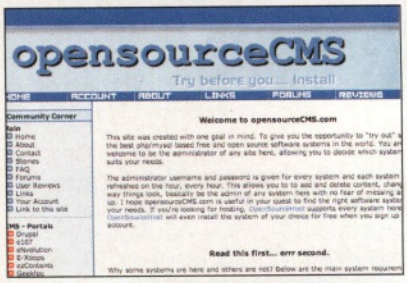
Q I'm in the fortunate position of running a site that is popular enough to be linked to by quite a few places on the Web. But I'm aware that some of these have frame-based designs which do not completely disappear when my site is accessed, often leaving their navigation frame in place with my content in the main frame. I know there are ways of automatically dumping other people's frames but I'm not sure how to achieve this – can you offer any advice please?

Dylan Moritz

A **There is unfortunately no hard and fast way to guarantee your page will always be viewed in the way you intend. The most common way of escaping from another site's frameset is to add a short section of JavaScript code just after the <body> tag in your HTML:**

```
<script type="text/javascript">
<!--
if ((top != self.parent) || (top == self))
```

Reader's tip



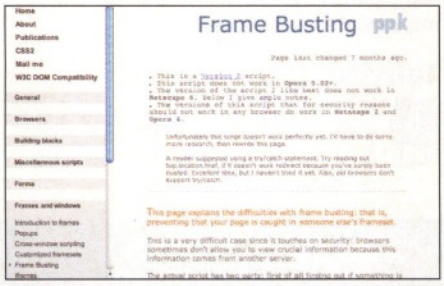
Avoid wasted days of tinkering with PHP content management packages. Try them all out in double-quick time at www.opensourcecms.com instead

I'M AN AVID fan of using PHP to build my Web site, but was quite confused by the range of options when I considered installing a content management system to help structure my Web site content. There are so many out there that I didn't know which to choose and started installing lots of different packages to try them out. In the midst of this time-consuming chore, I discovered **www.opensourcecms.com**, which saved me many hours of further installing and removing packages. Its creators had the wonderful idea of installing a range of different PHP-based CMS solutions, and providing public access to the back end of the system. I think this site is such a valuable asset to PHP fans like myself – please share it with your readers in a forthcoming issue!

Anna Fawcett

```
top.location = 'index.html';
  //-->
  </script>
```

While this works just fine in most cases, it does rely on the user having JavaScript activated. In the event that your site is framed itself, be sure to only include this script in the frameset file, or you will effectively be destroying your own frame design as well. Some browsers don't support scripting and some users choose to deactivate it as they are frustrated by some of its applications, such as the generation of pop-up windows. The script shown here has one other problem with it, which is explained in detail at www.xs4all.nl/~ppk/js/framebust.html, and relates to what happens if the user presses the 'Back' button to retrace their Web navigation steps. An alternative version of the script, which effectively erases the browser's memory of having seen your site in another site's frames, is provided at that Web site, although it creates the fresh problem of not being compatible with Netscape 6. Ultimately, your best course of action against particular sites linking to you within their frameset is to contact the offending Webmaster with a polite request for them to add a target="_top" property to the link.



Avoid the horrors of your site being displayed as part of someone else's frame design with the help of this site's detailed explanation of how to escape alien framesets

Virtuous video

Q I'm a bit unsure about the legalities of placing small video clips on a Web site for visitors to view. The idea would be to allow visitors to view very brief clips (about 20 seconds each). For the record, I do personally own all of the clips myself.

Mike Szpak

A **As you are the copyright owner, there are no legal concerns unless the content of the clips is inappropriate. The main issue that you should be worried about is whether your Web hosting account allows you to put these items online, and how many downloads of each video clip will be supported by the bandwidth allocation included with the account. Depending on the popularity of the site you may end up with an enormous bill for additional bandwidth. It is well worth considering the option of hosting the video clips on a separate server specifically designed for streaming media. A good example of this sort of service is www.netsecrets.co.uk, although you can find others at directories like www.findmyhosting.com.**

FINDMYHOSTING.COM
THE RIGHT HOSTING PLAN WITHOUT THE HASSLE.
The Easiest Way
To Find Affordable And Reliable Web H
From Budget To Ecommerce !
Search The FindMyHosting Site
Search The Whole Site
Easy Shared Web Hosting Search Tool
Budget Web Hosting

*The nifty search feature on the front page of **www.findmyhosting.com** allows you to describe the profile of your ideal Web host, so that you can be given a list of ones that suit your needs*

Focusing forms

Q I'd like to make it so that visitors don't have to click to start typing text into the search box on my Web page. For example, when I visit Google, there is an active cursor ready in the search box. This doesn't happen on my page, even though there's only one text box on the page.

Ethel Dickson

A **As with so many little tricks of Web design, this relies on a few lines of JavaScript code. When a cursor is active in a text box on a Web form, the box is said to be 'in focus'. You can automate the focusing of a box using a little script, which is exactly how Google achieves this feat of usability.**

First of all you need to add NAME properties to both the form and the text box, which needs to be focused. Just add the code name="form1" and name="box1" to the FORM and INPUT tags respectively. Then add the code onload="focus()" just before the end of the BODY tag, ie <body onload="focus()">. Finally, add this script just before the </head> tag.

```
<script type="text/javascript">
<!--
function focus() {
document.form1.Element1.focus()
}
//-->
</script>
```

Another useful form design tip to remember is tab indexing. To make sure that users navigate multi-box forms correctly, you can →

Readers' sites

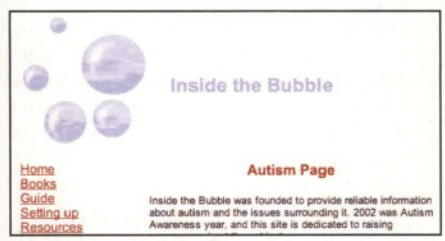
Share your site with us – send the URL to **helpdesk@paragon.co.uk**

Fight Sims

Creator: Adam Waterfield
URL: www.flightsims.co.uk
Anyone with an interest in flight simulation programs can't afford to miss out on this site. Even if you have no intention of pretending to fly planes, it's still an excellent example of how to set up and run a site that invites contributions from visitors using a registration system.

Washing Machine Help

Creator: Andy Trigg
URL: www.washerhelp.com
There really is a Web site about every imaginable subject, and here's one to prove it. The design is clean – although to slip into the vernacular, it doesn't achieve the brightest of whites when it comes to smart use of graphics.



Inside The Bubble

Creator: Alice Woolley
URL: www.insidethebubble.co.uk
The no-nonsense design suits this site's intention– to provide an accessible introduction to autism. There is a detailed personal story from 'Alice' who acknowledges her use of a pseudonym as she relates the diagnosis and treatment of her son's condition.

Q&A
Webmaster Q&A

add TABINDEX properties to INPUT tags to force the order in which fields will be focused if the user uses the TAB key to switch between them. Lower index numbers will be focused first, eg <input tabindex="1"> will get focus before <input tabindex="4">.

Your money or your life

Q Are there any viable alternatives to PayPal for processing low-value payments from other people in the UK? I sell regularly on auction sites but don't like footing the bill for PayPal, and am not impressed with its recent exchange rate miscalculations.

Terri Johnson

A **There's a new service which has recently been launched by Natwest which might just be the answer to your prayers. It is called Fastpay and is a very secure system which can handle payments via email and even over mobile phones. Auction sellers like it especially as the buyer picks up the 20p fee for sending a payment – PayPal of course works the other way around.**

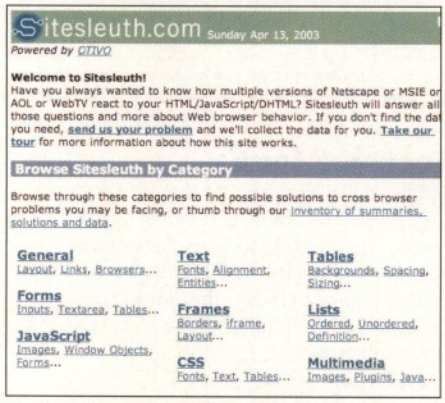
One important fact to remember about Paypal and similar services like www.bidpay.com and www.anypay.com is that they do not operate with the same sort of guarantees as buying via credit card, even if the buyer uses one to settle the bill with the payment service. You might instead want to consider an escrow service like www.escrow.com, which costs a little more in terms of processing fees, but provides better peace of mind to both parties, especially if you're planning on dealing with larger value auction payments.

Banish browser blips

Q I sometimes receive emails from visitors to my site complaining that parts of it are not accessible or appear strangely in their browser. In most cases they're using a browser or type of computer to which I have no access, making it very tricky to understand what their problem is, let alone try to solve it. I don't think my site is doing anything especially out of the ordinary, and keeping to HTML specifications is something about which I am very strict.

Susanna Ripley

A **This is a surprisingly common problem, and one that stems from the ways in which different Web browsers interpret the same HTML code. Very few browsers comply fully with the World Wide Web Consortium's specification for the language, not least because many of the favourite tricks of the Web design trade rely on rule bending or the addition of entirely new HTML entities. So, even if you honour every detail of the HTML standard, your site could still come unstuck. As a matter of basic good practice, you should get into the habit of checking your pages using the HTML validator at validator.w3.org, just to check that your page is correctly coded in the first place.**


Sitesleuth.com Sunday Apr 13, 2003
Powered by OTTVO
Welcome to Sitesleuth!
Have you always wanted to know how multiple versions of Netscape or MSIE or AOL or WebTV react to your HTML/JavaScript/DHTML? Sitesleuth will answer all those questions and more about Web browser behavior. If you don't find the da you need, send us your problem and we'll collect the data for you. Take our tour for more information about how this site works.
Browse Sitesleuth by Category
Browse through these categories to find possible solutions to cross browser problems you may be facing, or thumb through our inventory of summaries, solutions and data.
General
Layout, Links, Browsers...
Text
Fonts, Alignment, Entities...
Tables
Backgrounds, Spacing, Sizing...
Forms
Inputs, Textarea, Tables...
Frames
Borders, iframe, Layout...
Lists
Ordered, Unordered, Definition...
JavaScript
Images, Window Objects, Forms...
CSS
Fonts, Text, Tables...
Multimedia
Images, Plugins, Java...

Use Sitesleuth to track down how aspects of your design may be upsetting Web browsers

Provided you make it through validation unscathed, there is fortunately some more help at hand in the form of www.sitesleuth.com. This site is dedicated to identifying inconsistencies between browsers, and is based around a huge index of Web page features that are the source of different interpretation, all of which can be searched by keyword. Examples of how the problems manifest themselves are shown on the site, and if you find that your problem has not been covered, there's a facility for submitting it to the site for investigation. If you detect a potential incompatibility issue that you go on to correct, be sure to ask for the visitors who submitted the initial complaint to check whether your changes improve things for them.

Tallying technologies

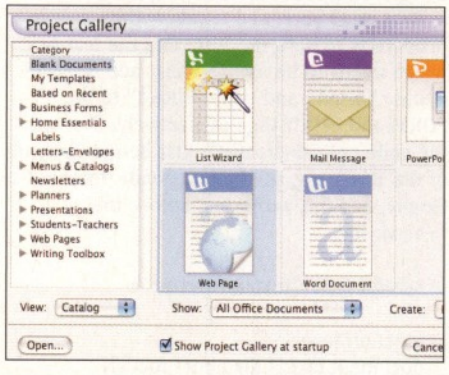
Q I like using the advanced features of my Web building software where possible, but I'd like to avoid excluding too many users

The templates don't work

Q I spent a fortune on getting the latest version of Microsoft Office for my new Mac laptop, partly because I was excited by the Web page templates it apparently offers. But when I select 'Web Page' in the 'Project Gallery' all I get is a blank standard page. What am I doing wrong?

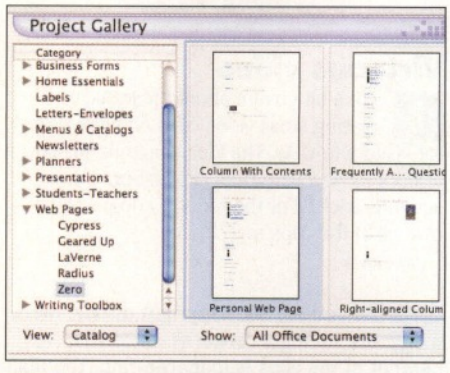
Sally Hope

A **You're making a simple mistake, although to the discredit of Microsoft it is a very easy mistake to make. The 'Project Gallery' has two aspects to it – one that creates blank documents and the other which lets you make use of Word's extensive built-in selection of templates. The four steps shown here explain how to access the template side of the Project Gallery and how to start adapting a template to your requirements.**



1 Accessing templates

The Project Gallery appears when you first start Word, and can also be accessed via the 'File' menu. It's an easy mistake to click on the big icons which first appear in the window, as shown above. You actually need to select 'Web Pages'.



2 Selecting a template

Click on the triangle to the left of 'Web Pages' to list the various templates available. When you click on one, a range of different page types are shown to the right of the list. Select one and click 'OK' to get started with creating your page.

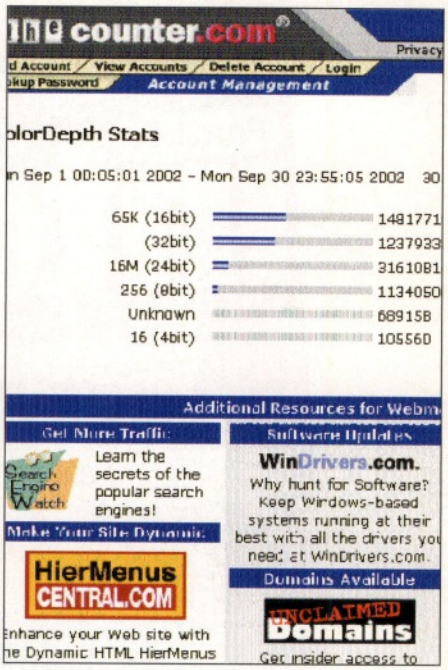
from enjoying my site because they don't have the necessary browser version or scripting language to make the page work. Is there any online source that reveals what sort of browsers people use and, in particular, how many don't have JavaScript support?

Sarah Halstead

A **First of all, I should say that if a page is well written, it will downgrade gracefully and not prevent users from accessing the basic content of a site – even if they can't see the amazing special effects that you've designed. But I guess with that in mind, it's still helpful to know whether it's worth your while creating pages that can't be enjoyed by all that many people. This information can be provided in the form of user access statistics, which can go into a surprising level of detail regarding the browser version, scripting support, screen resolution, Operating System, and various other indicators of your potential visitors.**

One free source of this information is www.thecounter.com/stats, where statistics are provided on a month-by-month basis. The data comes from the thousands of users who visit sites using the hit counter provided by www.thecounter.com. So, while it's not a random selection of users by any means (it is restricted to visitors of a particular group of sites, ie those which use hit counters) you should get a fair enough idea of general patterns. Looking at the latest information on that site, it is interesting to note that 10% of users don't have JavaScript support in their browsers. My guess is that there is a fair chance that many of them will have decided to deactivate JavaScript manually, so as to avoid any annoying features like pop-up windows and scrolling messages.

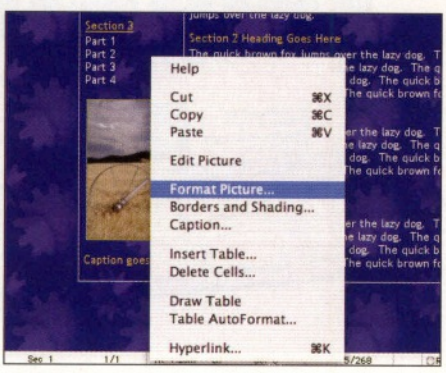
Always remember to test your pages with JavaScript disabled – this is done slightly differently depending on your Web browser of choice, but is generally an option in the main Preferences dialog.



You can count on www.thecounter.com to provide all the latest Web user statistics on a variety of sites

3 Editing hyperlinks

The links included in the template can be altered by holding down the 'Control' key while you click on the link in question. You then select the 'Hyperlink' section of the menu and pick 'Edit Hyperlink' from that sub-menu.



4 Setting up pictures

Photos can have their appearance settings altered by CTRL-clicking them and selecting 'Format Picture'. All other aspects of creating a Web page are similar to the normal Word methods. And don't forget the 'Web Page Preview' in the 'File' menu.

Design doctor

Titanic Titanic

Creator: Andrew Clarkson
URL: www.titanic.com

CREATING A WEB site about the Titanic is no mean feat. As far as getting information together is concerned, this site is a big hit, and it manages to keep fresh by letting users get very involved in its content, generating a real feel of community. Alas, when it comes to the visual design of the site, it really is a case of it being so bad they named it twice…

Sink the gateway page

How many times does a good doctor have to tell his patients that one simple little thing should be avoided at all costs? Yet still the evil gateway page appears all over the Web. Despite various delusional ideas about gateway pages actually enhancing search engine popularity, they do quite the opposite. And regardless of how popular you are with the engines, you need to think first about your visitors.

Succinct structure

Once visitors do manage to reach the main page, it is not a pretty sight. There's just too much information being presented in one place at one time, and where graphics are used they are oversized and ugly – especially the main site logo. While it is impressive that the site has lots of material available, it would be much more appreciated if index pages were presented in a less heavy-handed fashion. Even the substitution of list links for drop-down menus would instantly make the page feel different, without actually reducing the number of links on the page at all.

New adventures in colour

Don't be afraid to venture off the beaten track in terms of colours. Why stick to the standard black text and blue links when there are lots of other visually attractive possibilities that make a site stand out from the crowd? And with a site like this one, which has lots of links to external resources, a bold colour scheme will make it obvious to visitors when they've actually left the site as opposed to navigating within it.

Subscribe

And make a total saving of over £40!

Here's a few reasons why you can't afford to miss out on this great subscriptions offer

- *You'll get 13 issues for the price of eight and three free copies of PWP*
- *There's a free CD packed with full version software every issue*
- *We've given our readers four great free gifts in the last six months alone!*

HOW TO GET LISTED ON GOOGLE – PAGE 50
Practical
THE UK'S FASTEST-GROWING NET MAGAZINE
internet
THREE FULL PROGRAMS ■ 402 ISPs LISTED ■ 148 PAGES OF ADVICE
ISSUE 81 · JUNE 2003 · £4.99
BEAT NET RIP-OFFS
REVEALED: HOW YOU CAN STAY ONE STEP AHEAD OF THE ONLINE CONMEN
How to tell if your ISP is robbing you blind
Beat rip-off Britain by shopping online
Knowing your rights as an online consumer
Spot online scams and give them the elbow
PLUS! POWER USERS' GUIDE TO IE6
Take control of your browser on page 88
50 KILLER EMAIL TIPS
Get more from your mail client with our collection of essential tips and primers p32
NET GAMING: THE RETURN
Get ready to die harder and kill faster with our guide to broadband gaming p38
£308 OF FULL VERSION SOFTWARE ON ONE PACKED CD
EMAIL POWER TOOLS
Get your message across in the best possible way with this collection of must-have email enhancement utilities
INCLUDES:
Incredimail XE
Eudora 5.2.1
Pegasus Mail 4.02
The Bat 1.62
PLUS! THREE AMAZING FULLY-WORKING PROGRAMS
4D 6.7
WORTH £200
Tracks Eraser 3.11
WORTH £34
Spyserver 5.1
WORTH £94
FREE WITH internet 81 PLUS! 20 ESSENTIAL SURFING TOOLS
JUNE 2003 | WITH FREE CD WORTH £305
£4.99
"excite, enthuse and inform"
9 771366 766039 81
Issue 81

Call our hotline now! 01454 642442

overseas +44 1454 642442 **fax** 01458 271146 **email** pi@cisubs.co.uk

Best **EVER** offer – save over **£40!**

today!

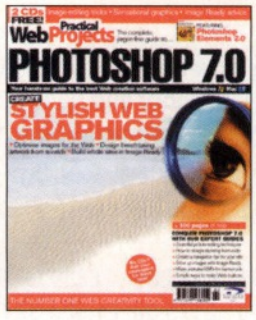
Three **BIG** reasons to subscribe:

1. SAVE £26.87

Get 13 copies of your favourite Internet monthly for just £38. That's a massive saving of £26.87!

2. AND GET THREE FREE MAGAZINES

That's right, you'll also get three FREE copies of *Practical Web Projects*, the UK's leading guide to the best Web creation software around. Boost your Web design skills and master the Web's top software!



3. FREE DELIVERY TO YOUR DOORSTEP!

Practical **internet**

PERSONAL DETAILS

Your name

Address

Post code Email

Phone number Date of Birth

SUBSCRIPTION AS A GIFT

Name

Address

Postcode Email

Phone number Date of Birth

☐ **New subscription** ☐ **Renewal subscription**

PAYMENT DETAILS

1. Direct Debit

☐ UK only £8.76 every 3 issues – **SAVE AN EXTRA 10%**

PARAGON PUBLISHING

Instruction to your Bank or Building Society to pay by Direct Debit

DIRECT Debit

Please fill in the form and send it to: Paragon Publishing Ltd, FREEPOST NATW1809, (Customer Interface), SOMERTON, TA11 6ZA

Name and full postal address of your Bank or Building Society

To: The manager Bank/Building Society

Address

Postcode

Name(s) of account holder(s)

Branch sort code

Bank/Building society account number

Originator's Identification Number: 8 5 1 4 1 2

Reference Number

Instructions to your Bank or Building society: Please pay Paragon Publishing Ltd Direct Debits from the account detailed in this instruction subject to the safeguards assured by the Direct Debit guarantee. I understand that this instruction may remain with Paragon Publishing Ltd and, if so, details will be passed on electronically to my Bank/Building society

Signature(s)

Date

Banks and building societies may not accept Direct Debit instructions for some types of account

A6 instruction form

2. Cheque/credit/debit card

☐ UK £38 for 13 issues

☐ Europe £61 for 13 issues

☐ World £81 for 13 issues

☐ Cheque (£'s sterling made payable to Paragon Publishing Ltd)

☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard ☐ Amex ☐ Switch ☐ Delta

Card number: Expiry date:

Issue No:

Signed: Date:

PARAGON PUBLISHING

Please return this order form or a photocopy of it together with your cheque/PO (if applicable) to the following address: **Paragon Publishing Ltd, FREEPOST NATW1809, (Customer Interface), SOMERTON, TA11 6ZA**

From time to time, Paragon sends out news about exciting new products and opportunities that are of interest to readers. If you do not wish to receive such information, please tick this box ☐

Media code: PI0381

STONEHENGE INTERNET SERVICES

DOMAINS HOSTING E-COMMERCE

Professional Quality Fast Hosting Solutions
Reseller Plans - Branded & Automated
Dedicated Servers - Low Price - High Spec

Why pay a premium for reliable, high speed hosting?

Hosting your website with Stonehenge guarantees you reliability, exceptional value and unparalleled service and support. Whether you are considering swiching hosting providers, planning a dynamic business site or launching a site for the first time, we have a plan to suit your budget.

Our servers are located in world class data centres in the UK and US.
We guarantee 99.999 uptime and our facility has multiple connections to the internet backbone

FAST RELIABLE HOSTING - FREE DOMAINS
HUGE BANDWIDTH ALLOWANCES

Windows 2000 Linux Redhat 7.2

All Windows Plans Include:
ASP, Perl, Private CGI-BIN FTP Account ODBC, Access Support for MSSQL,Frontpage Online Control Panel

PERSONAL & BUSINESS HOSTING PLANS

Plan	Webspace	Bandwidth	Monthly	Quarterly	Yearly
Linux Starter	50mb	1gb mth	X	X	£19.99
Windows Starter	50mb	1gb mth	X	X	£24.99
Standard	100mb	2gb mth	X	£11.99	£39.99
Premier Silver	500mb	5gb mth	£9.99	£26.99	£99.99
Premier Gold	1000mb	10gb mth	£17.50	£49.99	£175.00

ALL Plans offer Unlimited Mailboxes, Forwarding & Aliases
Special Offer: **FREE UK DOMAIN** on ALL hosting plans

All Linux Plans Include:
PHP, MySQL Perl, Private CGI-BIN SSH Access FTP Account Online Control Panel

RESELLER PLANS

For hosting multiple domains with FULL private label branding then Stonehenge Reseller Plans is your solution. Choice of Windows 2000, Linux or Multi-Platform plans. Ideal for those looking to start their own Hosting business. Easy to use Administrators Online control panel for adding domains and tailoring hosting plans. You decide how much to charge your customers, leave everything else to us with dedicated technical support and assistance.

* FREE PERSONAL SERVER NAMES
* UNLIMITED DOMAINS
* UNLIMITED WEBSPACE
* UNLIMITED MAIL & FORWARDING
* BRANDED UNLIMITED CONTROL PANELS
* FREE SUPPORT
* FULL RANGE OF HOSTING PLAN SERVICES

WINDOWS 2000
£45 PM OR £450 PA

LINUX REDHAT 7.2
£35 PM OR £350 PA

WINDOWS 2000 & LINUX REDHAT 7.2
£65 PM OR £650 PA

DEDICATED SERVERS

Get your own server with Red Hat Linux, FreeBSD or Windows 2000 pre-installed with your choice of Ensim or Plesk control panels for a strong, ready-to-go platform. You'll have plenty of storage, memory and bandwidth plus fast connections to the Internet and backup power in our new datacentre. No long term contracts! Cancel with 30 days notice

PLAN	SERVER	MEMORY	HD	BANDWIDTH monthly	MONTHLY Price	MONTHLY Setup	YEARLY Price	YEARLY Setup	WINDOWS
BASIC	Intel Celeron 1.7 Ghz	128mb	40Gb	100Gb	£69.95	£125.00	£839.00	FREE	Not Available
BUSINESS	Intel P4 2.0 Ghz	512mb	60Gb	500Gb	£125.00	£175.00	£1,500.00	FREE	+ £35 mth
ADVANCED	Intel Dual Zeon 2.0 Ghz	1Gb	2 x 80Gb RAID1	750Gb	£250.00	£320.00	£3,000.00	FREE	+ £35 mth
ULTRA	Intel Dual Zeon 2.4 Ghz	2Gb	5 x 36Gb SCSI RAID5	1000Gb	£450.00	£575.00	£5,400.00	FREE	+ £35 mth

E-Commerce - 'Off the Shelf' and customised solutions available. Actinic authorised resellers.
SPECIAL OFFER - Actinic Business V6 with FREE Standard Hosting only £799 + vat!

ORDER ONLINE

above prices excude vat

SALES 0870 162 0712

WWW.STONEHENGEINTERNET.NET

sales@stonehenge internet.net

Win! Freeserve Broadband and music access worth £1600!

ENTER NOW TO PICK UP ONE OF FOUR BUMPER FREESERVE PACKS

Getting a fat pipe connected to your house is increasingly easy, but what could be better than picking up free access for a year? We've teamed up with Freeserve, the UK's number one for the Internet, to give you the chance to win one of four free Broadband accounts for 12 months, and that includes all the setup fees and modems that would normally cost you extra – we're talking a mammoth £340 worth of broadband here.

Freeserve Broadband enables you to connect at 10 times the speed of a standard dial-up modem. Check out **www.freeserve.com/broadband** for more information, including links to sign up and start using the service.

Once you've got your connection up and running, why not pop along to Freeserve to catch the latest performances at Glastonbury. Thanks to an exclusive deal with Playlouder, Freeserve is streaming all the best bands from this year's festival. The kind people at Freeserve are streaming 2002's highlights a month before this year's event, which kicks off on June 27th – this should whet your appetite for the musical extravaganza to come.

To enjoy Glastonbury online, simply pop along to **www.freeserve.com/festivals**. Who knows, you might even win tickets to the event in one of the regular competitions.

The Music Club contains plenty of other stuff as well, which is why we've persuaded Freeserve to give us four memberships for you to win. This gives you 500 credits a month, which equates to a nifty 50 music downloads. The Music Club has all your favourite artists as well, meaning you'd get 600 great songs as part of your prize.

All in all, then, it's a pretty fair deal. Give us the answer to our question, and you stand a chance of winning Freeserve Broadband for a year, plus loads of music as well. What are you waiting for? Get emailing now...

THE PRIZES

FOUR lucky winners will win the following prizes:

- **A year's worth of Freeserve Broadband access, including setup. Worth around £340**
- **A year's subscription to Freeserve Music Club, entitling you to 500 streams and 50 MP3 downloads a month. Worth £60**

HOW TO ENTER

ALL YOU HAVE TO DO TO STAND A CHANCE OF WINNING ONE OF THESE FANTASTIC PRIZES IS ANSWER THE FOLLOWING SIMPLE QUESTION:

Q WHAT IS GLASTONBURY MOST FAMOUS FOR?

a. Music festivals
b. Movie studios
c. Sunny beaches

Send your answer by email to **'pi@paragon.co.uk'** putting **'Freeserve'** as the subject. Your answers should reach us by **25 June 2003.** Please include your name, address and daytime telephone number with your entry. Please also state whether or not you would be happy to receive correspondence from Paragon or third parties associated with Paragon Publishing.

THE RULES:
Employees of Paragon Publishing, Freeserve, their agents, wholesalers and their relatives may not enter. Participants must be over 18 years of age and resident in the UK. The Editor's decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into. Proof of postage cannot be accepted as proof of receipt and no responsibility can be accepted for lost, delayed or damaged entries.

Web browsing

Streamline your surfing

In brief:
Task: Surf the Web with Mozilla
Software I need: Mozilla 1.3
Difficulty: Fairly straightforward
Time I need: Take as long as you want

Practical internet IT'S ON THE CD

Welcome...

IF FAMOUS DIARISTS like Adrian Mole or Samuel Pepys were around today there's no doubt that they'd both be thrilling us all with news of their latest failed relationships or fire avoidance via their Web logs.

Blogs have become the perfect way to keep the world abreast of your views on the issues of the day, and we love them so much that we've devoted our first ever 'Find it Now' feature to them.

We hope you enjoy this new section, where we round up our favourite Bookmarks within a particular field. Let us know what you think of it, and feel free to suggest topics that you would like to see.

Of course, we're still serving up the same recipe of quality tutorials to help you squeeze the most life out of your browser. This month's helping of Net nuggets includes a guide to open source browsing, getting news delivered to your desktop and sharing files with Grokster.

James Thornton, Features Editor

What's inside...

78 **Complete guide to Mozilla**
Learn your way around this monster open source browsing client

80 **Get news to your desktop**
Pick up news without having to browse the Web with NewsAnchor

82 **File-sharing with Grokster**
How to tame the power of this popular Gnutella-based file-sharer

84 **Get more from Media Player**
Power up your copy of Windows Media Player for better performance

86 **Find it now: Web logs**
Everybody's doing it – we showcase 10 of the blogs you simply must visit

88 **Internet Explorer Power Tips**
Show your browser who's boss with our collection of time-saving tricks

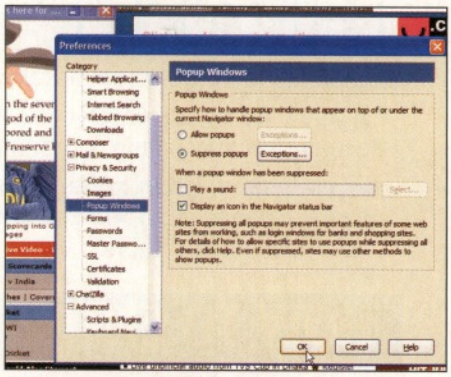
90 **Web browsing Q&A**
Google guru Clive Parker rescues you from your browsing nightmares

The complete guide to Mozilla

STREAMLINE YOUR SURFING BY DISCOVERING THE TIME-SAVING FEATURES OF THE THINKING MAN'S BROWSER

ALTHOUGH INTERNET EXPLORER may have kicked the opposition to kingdom come in the browser wars, that's no reason for Microsoft to get complacent about the prospects for its beloved browser. Its opponents are rallying with a few not-so-secret weapons in an effort to woo punters away from IE.

One of the biggest challengers must surely be Mozilla, which has slowly developed a cult following thanks to its mighty arsenal of surfing trickery. This includes ad-blocking tools, skinning capabilities and a rather tasty Custom Keywords feature for accessing sites more quickly. Many of the initial bugs in the open source browser have now been ironed out, meaning that there's never been a better time to experiment with a new kind of Web browser.


Preferences
Category
Popup Windows
Popup Window
Allow popups
Suppress popups
Exceptions...
When a popup window has been suppressed:
Play a sound:
Display an icon in the Navigator status bar
Note: Suppressing all popups may prevent important features of some web sites from working, such as login windows for banks and shopping sites. For details of how to allow specific sites to use popups while suppressing all others, click Help. Even if suppressed, sites may use other methods to show popups.
OK
Cancel
Help

1 Pulverise pop-ups

Mozilla lets you live in an ad-free world. Eliminate pop-up windows by altering the browser's Privacy & Security settings from the Preferences menu in the Edit menu. Click on the 'Suppress popups' radio button to wipe them out for good.

2 Banish banner ads

Banner advertising is another annoying aspect of Web surfing, and Mozilla lets you give these flashy nuisances the heave-ho as well. To block banners from a particular server, simply right-click on the link and choose 'Block images from this server'.

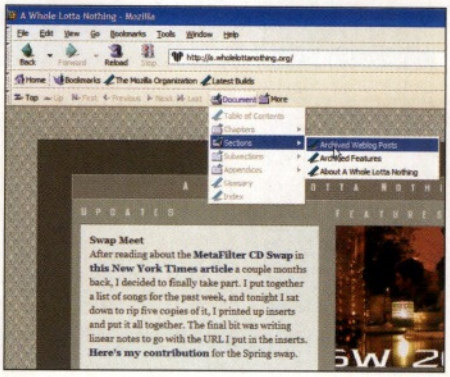
BBC SPORT
CRICKET
Last Updated: Wednesday, 16 April, 2003, 16:41 GMT 17:41 UK
Gambhir shines in India win
India consign Bangladesh to their 40th consecutive one-day international loss.
Bears move for Clark
Warwickshire sign Australian pace bowler Michael Clark as short-term cover for Shane Bond.
Warne playing fate delayed
Shane Warne will have to wait until after Easter to learn whether he can play village cricket in England.
Stump Bearders
Young pretenders

3 Tabbed browsing

It seems most browsers use tabbed browsing these days. To open a new tab choose 'File', 'New', 'Tab', or click on the 'New Tab' icon. You can now open a new page in each tab and flick between them, rather than fiddling with multiple browser windows.

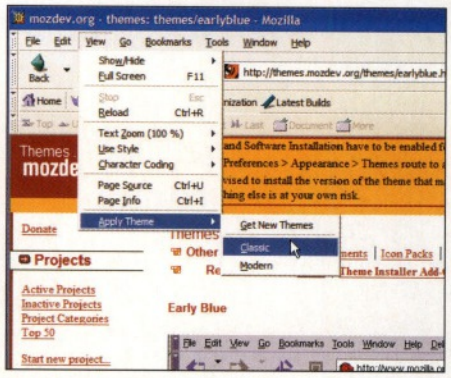
4 Using sidebars

Another great addition is the Sidebar function, accessed from the Show/Hide option in the View menu. This gives you instant access to a range of features and content such as bookmarks, Web searching, AOL Instant Messenger and online news.



5 Site Navigation bar

A favourite feature is the Site Navigation bar, available by clicking 'View', 'Show/Hide', 'Site Navigation Bar'. It provides a different way of negotiating Web pages, letting you instantly jump to the home page or various sections using the toolbar.

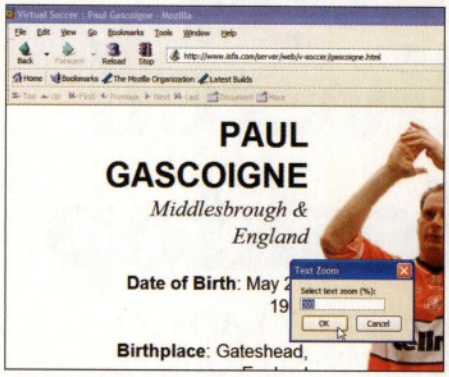


6 Applying themes

Mozilla comes with skinning capabilities. Choose between the two default themes or download new ones from **themes.mozilla.org**. Once downloaded, choose 'Apply Theme' from the 'View' menu and select your skin.

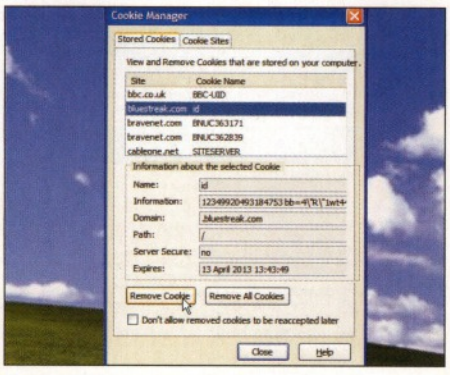
7 Searching the Web

Mozilla lets you mine every corner of the Web for info through its Search button. You can use one of many search engines via the Preferences menu or the Search panel within the Sidebar. Enter a keyword and click 'Search' to start.



8 Zoom for more

The browser was designed with accessibility in mind, and the Text Zoom feature is great for partially-sighted people. Text can be zoomed to any size. Choose 'Text Zoom' from the 'View' menu and pick 'Other' before entering a zoom ratio.



9 Cookie Manager

Cookies can actually sometimes be useful for browsing the Web more quickly. This is why Mozilla's Cookie Manager is so good; it lets you choose which cookies to delete without having to trawl through the whole system. Access this from the 'Tools' menu.

10 Download Manager

Mozilla's Download Manager (Tools menu), gives you a tabular view of every file you've ever downloaded, so you can open them without having to search your system. Progress indicators keep track as items are downloaded from the Web.

Jargon buster

Cookie

A file containing a small piece of information about your computer that is sent by a Web server to your machine when you browse certain sites. This can then be used to log you into a site more quickly, as it remembers your details.

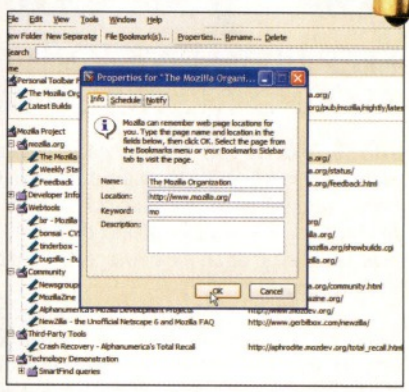
Pop-up advert

An online ad that is displayed in a new browser window without being requested by the user.

Download

The process of transferring a file such as an MP3, image or piece of software from the Internet to your computer. This process can usually be speeded up by using a download manager to organise your file transfers.

Power users' tip



ANY SEASONED MOZILLA user will tell you that if you aren't using the browser's Custom Keywords facility then you simply aren't living. Custom Keywords allow you to provide shortcuts to your bookmarks, searches and queries. To set a keyword for one of your bookmarks choose 'Manage Bookmarks' from the 'Bookmark' menu. You will now be presented with a list of all your current bookmarks. Highlight a bookmark and click 'Properties', or 'CTRL' + 'I'. Enter a short phrase that you'll remember in the 'Keyword' field (such as 'mo' for mozilla.org) and click 'OK'. Now simply type that shortened keyword into the address bar to access the site.

In brief:
Task: Access online news from your desktop
Software I need: NewsAnchor 1.2
Difficulty: Piece of cake
Time I need: Takes about 10 minutes to set up

Get the latest news delivered to your desktop

KEEP UP TO DATE WITH EVENTS AS THEY HAPPEN AROUND THE WORLD WITHOUT LEAVING YOUR PC

THE STATURE OF online news services has grown immensely in recent years, to the extent that the Web is now the preferred source of news for many people who would rather load up their browser than go down the newsagents for the morning paper.

The immediacy of Net news has become a real winner with punters, and its popularity has been boosted by major breaking stories such as the World Trade Center attack and the war in Iraq. In fact, recent stats from Nielsen NetRatings show that British visits to Internet news sites jumped by a quarter during the conflict, with the BBC and CNN reporting massive surges in demand.

What's the story?

Although it's never been more popular, online news is still far from perfect, and looking for stories that are of interest can sometimes be an arduous task as you trawl all your bookmarked sites looking for relevant information. Wouldn't it be nice if this news could just land on your desktop, much like a newspaper plopping onto your doormat every morning? Well, funnily enough, this can be done using NewsAnchor.

The program lets you select from a growing list of online news sources and get all the latest stories delivered directly to your desktop. Unlike many other headline viewers and desktop tickers, NewsAnchor displays a story description with each headline, so you can see exactly what the article is about without wasting time downloading the whole article to your browser. The application uses a news-parsing engine which extracts the latest news from the site's pages, so any new developments can be picked up on immediately.

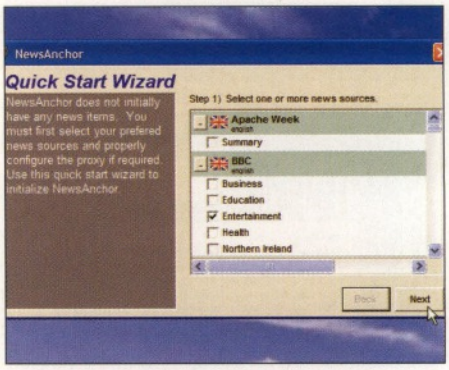
A finger on the pulse

NewsAnchor supports a large range of different news sources including BBC, ITV, The Register and USA Today. These are split into categories according to subject matter (Business, World News, Entertainment, etc) and by country, with a fair smattering of British-based sites included.

The headlines from the news channels you've selected are displayed in a window on your desktop, allowing you to click on a headline that tickles your fancy to access that story via your browser. You can refresh the content of this window yourself, or schedule NewsAnchor to do it on a regular basis.

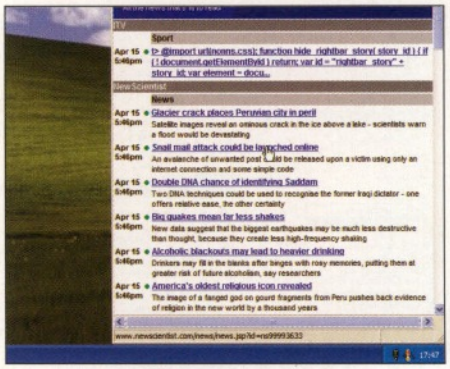
Once you've installed the program you'll never miss an important story again, as a team of journalists scurries away on your desktop.

Practical internet IT'S ON THE CD



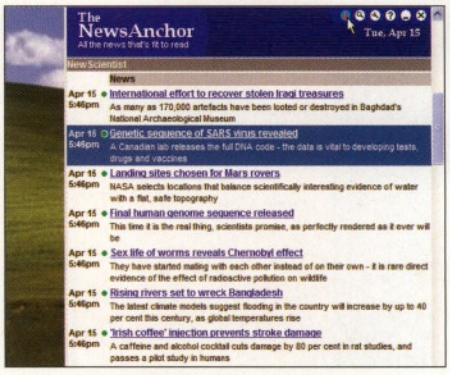
1 News of the world

To start receiving the latest headlines on your desktop, you first need to tell NewsAnchor which news sources you wish to hear from. The program allows you to receive news from as many sites as you like from countries around the world.


Sport
News
Glacier crack places Peruvian city in peril
Snail mail attack could be launched online
Double DNA chance of identifying Saddam
Big quakes mean far less shakes
Alcoholic blackouts may lead to heavier drinking
America's oldest religious icon revealed

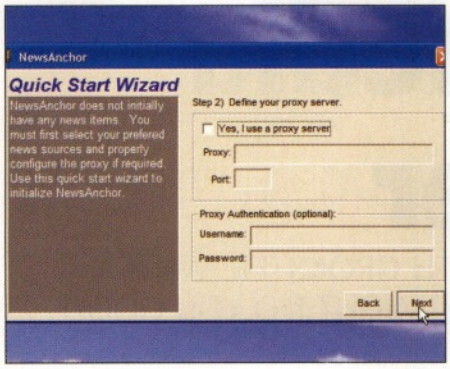
4 Check the latest

The NewsAnchor window will be displayed at the bottom-right of the screen and can be minimised to the System Tray if you wish. The latest headlines from the news sites you chose will be shown and you can access a story by clicking its headline.


The NewsAnchor
All the news that's fit to read
Tue, Apr 15
News
International effort to recover stolen Iraqi treasures
Genetic sequence of SARS virus revealed
Landing sites chosen for Mars rovers
Final human genome sequence released
Sex life of worms reveals Chernobyl effect
Rising rivers set to wreck Bangladesh
'Irish coffee' injection prevents stroke damage

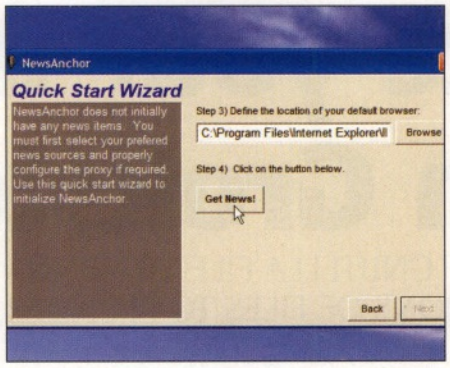
7 Updating news

A breaking news story can develop very quickly and if you want to stay right on top of the latest developments you should refresh NewsAnchor by clicking the 'down' arrow in the toolbar. It will then re-check all the news sources for new stories.


NewsAnchor
Quick Start Wizard
NewsAnchor does not initially have any news items. You must first select your prefered news sources and properly configure the proxy if required. Use this quick start wizard to initialize NewsAnchor.
Step 2) Define your proxy server.
Yes, I use a proxy server
Proxy:
Port:
Proxy Authentication (optional):
Username:
Password:
Back
Next

2 Proxy lady

Once you've selected your news sites, you'll be asked if you're working behind a proxy server. If you are, enter the address of the server and the port number. If you need to give authentication, enter your username and password before clicking 'Next'.

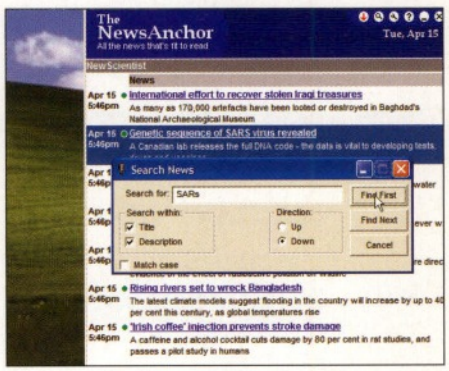

NewsAnchor
Quick Start Wizard
NewsAnchor does not initially have any news items. You must first select your prefered news sources and properly configure the proxy if required. Use this quick start wizard to initialize NewsAnchor.
Step 3) Define the location of your default browser:
C:\Program Files\Internet Explorer\I
Browse
Step 4) Click on the button below.
Get News!
Back
Next

3 Where's your browser?

Before you find out what's going on in the world, you need to define the location of your default browser so NewsAnchor can pick up the news from the Web. Browse to the location of your browser and then click 'Get News' to launch the application.

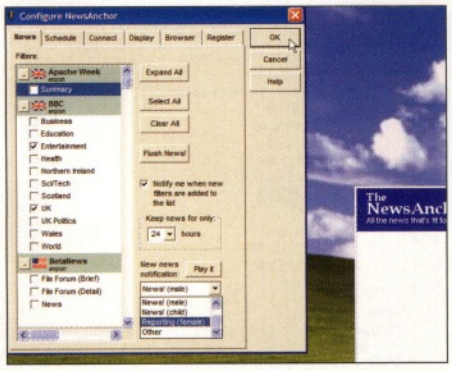
5 Pass it on

Your default browser will now be launched and you'll be taken to the Web page of the story you selected. If you want to, you can email the link to a pal by right-clicking on the headline and choosing 'E-Mail Link' from the pop-up menu.


The NewsAnchor
All the news that's fit to read
Tue, Apr 15
NewScientist
News
Apr 15 5:46pm International effort to recover stolen Iraqi treasures
As many as 170,000 artefacts have been looted or destroyed in Baghdad's National Archaeological Museum
Apr 15 5:46pm Genetic sequence of SARS virus revealed
A Canadian lab releases the full DNA code - the data is vital to developing tests.
Search News
Search for: SARs
Find First
Find Next
Cancel
Search within:
Title
Description
Direction:
Up
Down
Match case
Apr 15 5:46pm Rising rivers set to wreck Bangladesh
The latest climate models suggest flooding in the country will increase by up to 40 per cent this century, as global temperatures rise
Apr 15 5:46pm 'Irish coffee' injection prevents stroke damage
A caffeine and alcohol cocktail cuts damage by 80 per cent in rat studies, and passes a pilot study in humans

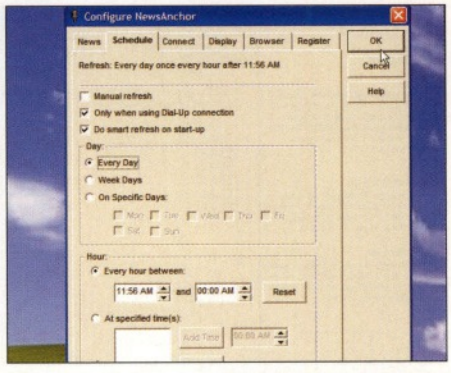
6 Searching for news

The program also allows you to search for particular topics that appear in the news, making it a great research tool. Click the magnifying glass icon, enter a keyword and click 'Find First' to trawl your news sources for stories containing that term.



8 Configuring your news

Click the 'Options' icon in the toolbar to launch the 'Configure NewsAnchor' menu. This lets you re-select the news sources and decide how long you wish to keep news for. You can even apply a new news notifier, which alerts you when a story breaks.



9 Define automatic updates

Instead of manually refreshing news content all the time, you might want to set NewsAnchor to automatically update the news. Click the 'Schedule' tab and set the frequency with which you want the program to search for breaking news.

Web resources

BBC NEWS
Huntley pleads not guilty to murder
Ian Huntley denies murdering schoolgirls Holly Wells and Jessica Chapman but admits conspiring to pervert the course of justice.
Blair urges key UN role in Iraq
Iraqi boy airlifted to burns unit

BBC News

news.bbc.co.uk/

If you've never heard of this comprehensive online news service you've probably been living at the bottom of a well for the last few years. What most people may not know however, is that the site contains a downloadable 'Desktop Ticker' which scrolls the latest headlines across your desktop.

NewsNow

www.newsnow.co.uk

Imagine having Kate Adie, Trevor McDonald and John Simpson as your own personal team of newshounds, keeping you posted on every story throughout the world. That's pretty much what NewsNow does, trawling thousands of online news services to bring you updated news every five minutes.

Power users' tip

LIKE ANY DECENT Net application, NewsAnchor gives you control over the look of the interface, allowing you to quickly change the way information is displayed. By clicking on the 'Display' tab within the 'Configure NewsAnchor' menu, you can alter the interface setup. The Format drop-down menu lets you choose from various display settings such as sorting news by category or by time, and a preview of how it will look is shown underneath. This menu even lets you determine a 'hotkey pop', meaning you can call up the latest news with a simple tap of the keyboard.

In brief:
Task: Master the basics of a top file-sharing client
Software I need: Grokster
Difficulty: Fairly straightforward
Time I need: Enough to do the downloading

Practical internet IT'S ON THE CD

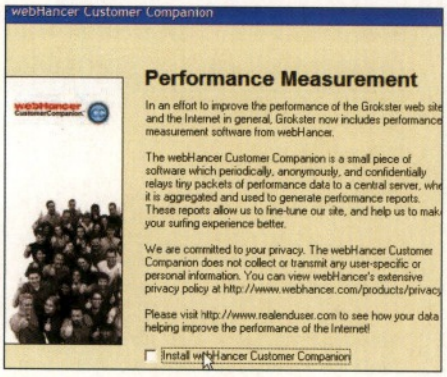
Distribute your media files with Grokster

ENTER THE HEADY WORLD OF GNUTELLA FILE-SHARING WITH GROKSTER. WITH A SIMPLE INTERFACE AND MILLIONS OF FILES TO PLUNDER, IT MIGHT DO YOU GOOD

AT THE MOMENT, the king of the file-sharing clients is undoubtedly KaZaA, thanks to its huge array of users and files. But what do you do when searches in KaZaA no longer yield any returns? You turn to Grokster, that's what.

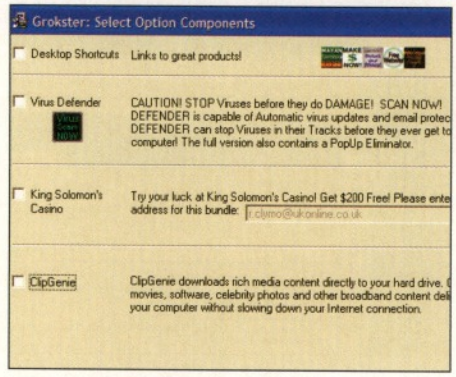
Similar in many ways, this straightforward alternative has built up a steady base of followers and boasts an extensive network community. Typically, it adheres to the principle that if you're looking for something, you might well have stuff someone else wants. Registered users declare files they intend to share and contribute to a massive archived resource for others to download. Popularised by the distribution of (ahem) music and video, this does tread some dodgy legal areas. Such files are copyrighted by law, and of course we don't condone piracy, so be warned.

The Grokster client looks not unlike a browser or file manager and caters for many tasks. Not only does it provide the search tools you need to find files, but it manages your media too. Audio playlists can be compiled and saved, while you can view video via the Theatre facility.


webHancer Customer Companion
Performance Measurement
In an effort to improve the performance of the Grokster web site and the Internet in general, Grokster now includes performance measurement software from webHancer.
The webHancer Customer Companion is a small piece of software which periodically, anonymously, and confidentially relays tiny packets of performance data to a central server, where it is aggregated and used to generate performance reports. These reports allow us to fine-tune our site, and help us to make your surfing experience better.
We are committed to your privacy. The webHancer Customer Companion does not collect or transmit any user-specific or personal information. You can view webHancer's extensive privacy policy at http://www.webhancer.com/products/privacy
Please visit http://www.realenduser.com to see how your data is helping improve the performance of the Internet!
Install webHancer Customer Companion

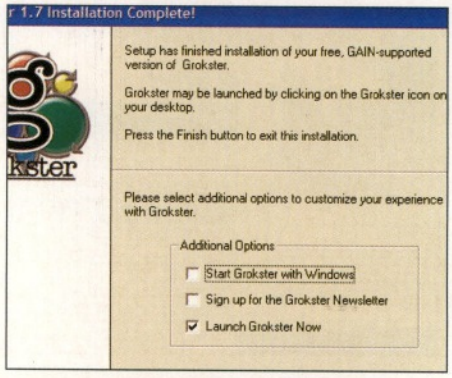
1 Grokster install

While connected to the Net, double-click the Grokster 'Installer' icon and accept the disclaimers. A dialog asks if you wish to install the 'WebHancer' monitoring suite. De-select the checkbox to cancel unless you want it (you probably won't).


Grokster: Select Option Components
Desktop Shortcuts
Links to great products!
Virus Defender
CAUTION! STOP Viruses before they do DAMAGE! SCAN NOW! DEFENDER is capable of Automatic virus updates and email protec DEFENDER can stop Viruses in their Tracks before they ever get to computer! The full version also contains a PopUp Eliminator.
King Solomon's Casino
Try your luck at King Solomon's Casino! Get $200 Free! Please ente address for this bundle:
ClipGenie
ClipGenie downloads rich media content directly to your hard drive. movies, software, celebrity photos and other broadband content deli your computer without slowing down your Internet connection.

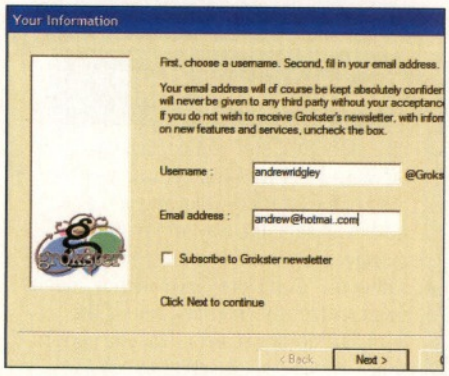
2 Extra stuff

A second dialog will prompt you to select further promotional programs for installation. Again these are additional extras which are not required to run the Grokster client. Feel free to deselect those options you don't want.


r 1.7 Installation Complete!
Setup has finished installation of your free, GAIN-supported version of Grokster.
Grokster may be launched by clicking on the Grokster icon on your desktop.
Press the Finish button to exit this installation.
Please select additional options to customize your experience with Grokster.
Additional Options
Start Grokster with Windows
Sign up for the Grokster Newsletter
Launch Grokster Now

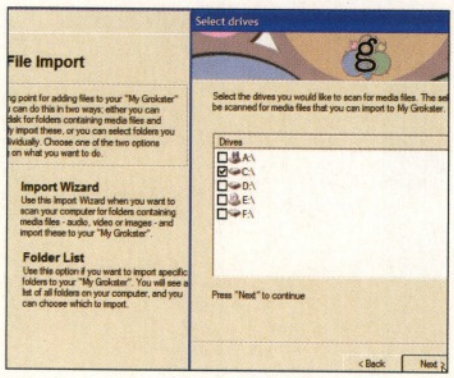
3 Installation complete

A confirmation box telling you the installation is complete appears next. Before clicking 'Finish', you're asked to configure some additional options. Unless otherwise desired, uncheck the first two boxes and tick 'Launch Grokster Now'.


Your Information
First, choose a username. Second, fill in your email address.
Your email address will of course be kept absolutely confidential will never be given to any third party without your acceptance. If you do not wish to receive Grokster's newsletter, with information on new features and services, uncheck the box.
Username :
andrewridgley
Email address :
andrew@hotmail.com
Subscribe to Grokster newsletter
Click Next to continue
< Back
Next >

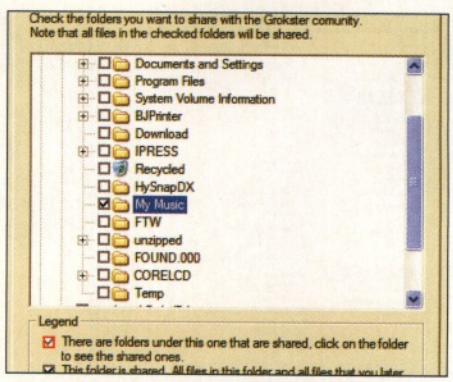
4 Registration

To use Grokster you need a username. Enter your desired identity into the 'Username' box and submit a valid email address so other users may contact you. Clear the checkbox if you want to avoid a stream of Grokster mailouts, and Click 'Next'.


File Import
Import Wizard
Use this Import Wizard when you want to scan your computer for folders containing media files - audio, video or images - and import these to your "My Grokster".
Folder List
Use this option if you want to import specific folders to your "My Grokster". You will see a list of all folders on your computer, and you can choose which to import.
Select drives
Select the drives you would like to scan for media files. The se be scanned for media files that you can import to My Grokster.
Drives
Press "Next" to continue
< Back
Next >

5 Who shares wins

A tabbed dialog will appear asking for files you wish to share. This allows other Grokster users to download direct from your machine, so be careful. The Import Wizard option automatically searches selected drives for suitable media files on your PC.



6 Files, what files?

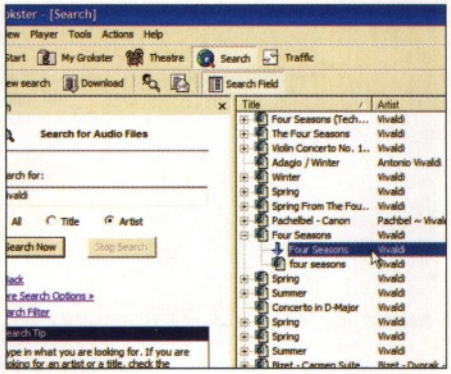
The manual search dialog is a typical Explorer-type viewer. A window displays available directories, and folders can be explored by expanding/collapsing the tree. Locate the folders containing shareable files and click to select. Hit 'Apply' or 'OK' when finished.

7 Start here

The home page has links to commercial sites offering files for download including record companies or independent music labels, and games and software distributors. An online help page is also available, and your connection status is shown at the bottom right.

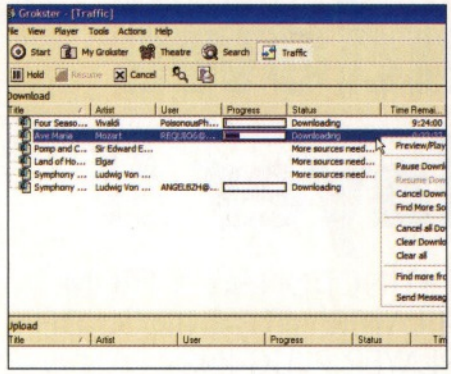
8 Find music

Once connected, a search button appears in the Grokster client. Click to view a window with a search panel and results pane. Enter song titles/artist names in the 'Search for' textbox – hit 'Search Now'. Results are listed opposite; click to select for download.



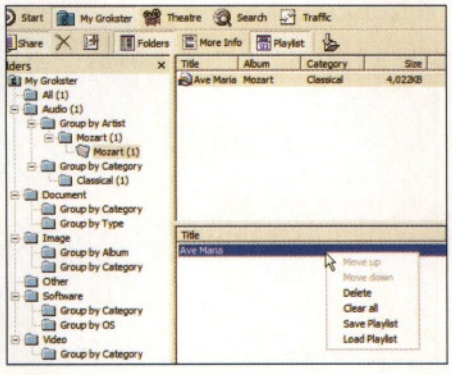
9 Get downloading

Downloading files are presented in a list you can view by clicking 'Traffic' on the main bar. Details of each file received are listed, including status and progress. Cancel or pause a download using 'Cancel' and 'Hold' on the toolbar, or the right-click menu.



10 My Grokster

Successfully downloaded files are placed into a hierarchy of folders called 'My Grokster'. This is accessible from the desktop and stores files by media type or category. Click the 'My Grokster' button on the client toolbar to explore.



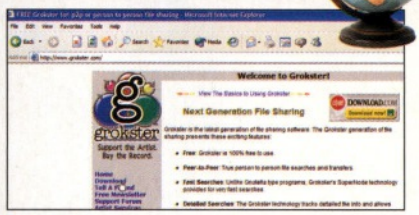
11 On the right track

You can compile downloaded audio files into sequences like tracks on a CD. In My Grokster click the 'Playlist' button and a window area appears. Drag files onto the new pane to create a list. Shuffle, edit and save your playlist by using the right-click menu.

12 Listen here

Playing media files has been made easy by using the integrated controls. The bottom panel of the browser houses standard multimedia buttons like play, stop, skip and volume. Video files work in the same way but are displayed in the 'Theatre' window.

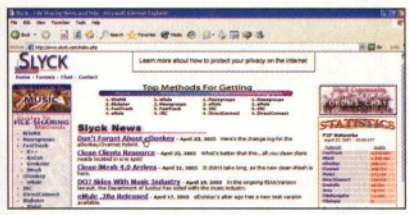
Web resources



Grokster online

www.grokster.com

Not just the place where you can download the client, Grokster.com also offers answers to common questions and troubleshooting information. It also provides a forum for users to post messages and gives advice to amateur or established artists alike who wish to distribute their work online.



Slyck File-Sharing Resource

www.slyck.com

This site is a veritable bible for file-sharing disciples. Containing guides to all the major clients and networks, Slyck also offers a constantly updated news section. There are links to downloads as you'd expect, and interestingly there's a load of sharing statistics to prove you're not alone.

Power users' tip

A BENEFIT (OR NOT?) of being on a network is that others can contact you. It may be that your quest for files leads you to someone who happens to have all the elusive downloads you've ever wanted. Just imagine the Grokster friendships that may blossom when finding those people with a similar taste in, well, files. It's all made possible by simply right-clicking a downloading file and selecting 'Send message to user' on the pop-up menu. A simple dialog will appear offering ample room to make acquaintances, along with buttons to 'Send' or 'Cancel'. Exactly what you say is up to you, but venting your spleen over an erroneous file transfer isn't advised, along with invitations to hear your latest playlist.

In brief:
Task: Learn to use plug-ins with Windows Media Player
Software I need: Windows Media Player 9
Difficulty: Pretty easy
Time I need: 45 minutes

Squeeze more from Windows Media Player 9

DISCOVER HOW TO GET MORE FUNCTIONALITY FROM MICROSOFT'S DIGITAL MUSIC PLAYER WITH OUR GUIDE TO USING WINDOWS MEDIA PLAYER PLUG-INS

COMPARED TO SOME of the other audio and video programs about, Windows Media Player has traditionally had something of a bad press.

Berated for its lack of features, dull looks and clunky user interface, it was seen by many audiophiles as a poor man's Winamp. While it was effective at churning out tunes, it had precious little razzamatazz to get users excited. If audio programs were snooker players, Winamp would be Hurricane Higgins, whereas Windows Media Player would be Steve Davis.

The times are changing however, and since Microsoft bundled Series 9 of the application with Windows XP, things have got a whole lot more interesting for its users. The latest version is equipped with some features designed to help you get more from your audio and video. This includes impressive new Smart Jukebox technology which boasts audio CD burning with volume-levelling capabilities.

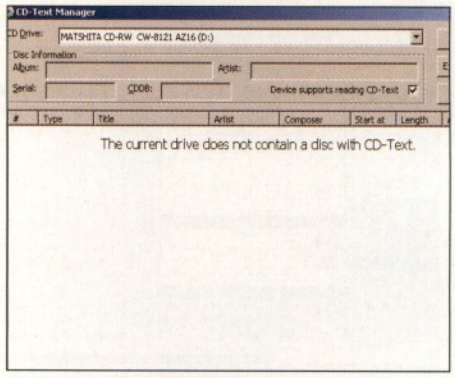
Rate your music

Another neat addition is the ability to rate songs out of five, or let the player assign ratings for you based on the number of times each song is played, then create playlists of your top tunes. The new Auto Info feature lets you automatically fix or add tags to your MP3 and WMA files such as artist name, year, album name or track number. There's also a new Miniplayer mode, which allows you to toggle between a full-screen interface and a docked player on the Windows taskbar.

Above all, Windows Media Player is starting to catch up with the likes of Winamp in terms of the range of skins, visualisations and function-enhancing plug-ins available for the program. This means that you can not only change the looks of the interface, but add genuinely useful functions on top of the already impressive set of new features.

This includes the ability to apply professional-quality sound effects, organise your playlists more effectively or embed your song ratings into each audio file. There's also a huge new selection of skins available for the player, including those based on popular movies, pop stars or books. An improved selection of visualisations can also be downloaded into the player to liven up your audio playback.

Here, we round up some of the best plug-ins available for Media Player, all of which can be downloaded free from **www.wmplugins.com**, among a gigantic collection of stunning add-ons.

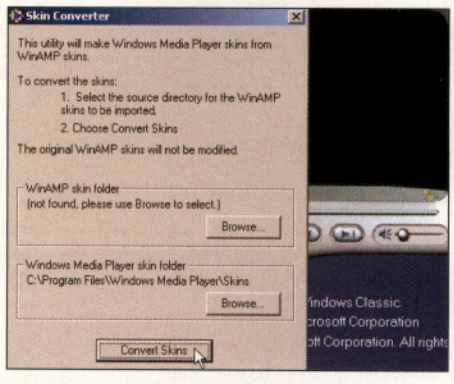


1 CD Text Manager

Letting you extract CD text from any CD in any drive on your PC, this plug-in shows the info onscreen then lets you export the details to all third-party apps on your PC. You can view the text from that app, provided your system supports the feature.

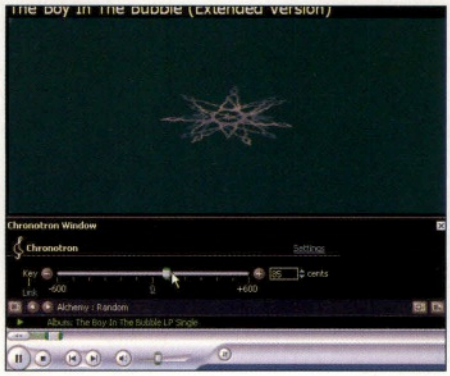
4 'Decades' Auto Playlists

Developed by Microsoft, this collection of more than a dozen Auto Playlists allows you to organise your music by decades from the Forties through to the new millennium. To install the plug-in, unzip it to 'My Playlists'.


Skin Converter
This utility will make Windows Media Player skins from WinAMP skins.
To convert the skins:
1. Select the source directory for the WinAMP skins to be imported.
2. Choose Convert Skins
The original WinAMP skins will not be modified.
WinAMP skin folder
(not found, please use Browse to select.)
Browse...
Windows Media Player skin folder
C:\Program Files\Windows Media Player\Skins
Browse...
Convert Skins

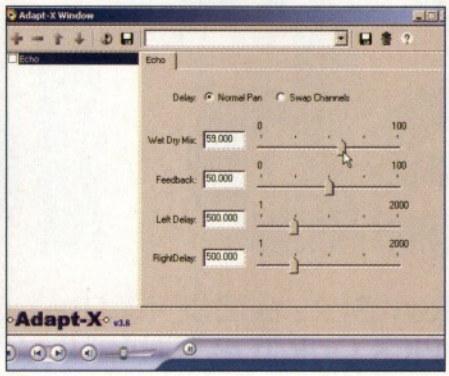
7 Skin Converter

Media Player has never quite matched up to Winamp in the skin stakes, but this useful plug-in changes all that. The add-on allows you to convert Winamp skins into Media Player skins. Winamp skins can be downloaded from **www.winamp.com**.



2 Chronotron

Despite sounding like a robot from a Fifties B-movie, this is an improved version of the popular DSP plug-in which lets you manipulate tempo and pitch separately. In other words, you can change the tempo of a track without affecting its pitch, and vice versa.

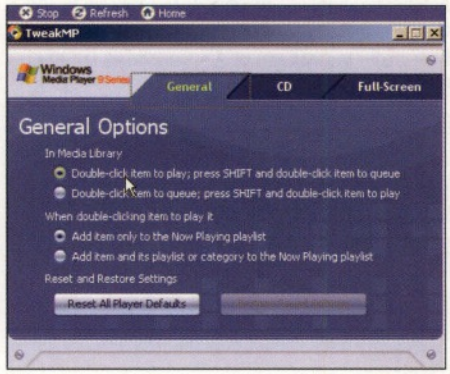


3 Adapt-X

Fancy giving a bit more life to a dull tune? This remarkable add-on allows you to use Direct-X plug-ins with Windows Media Player 9. As a result, you can use it to apply the same professional effects you would see in a recording studio, such as distortion and echo.

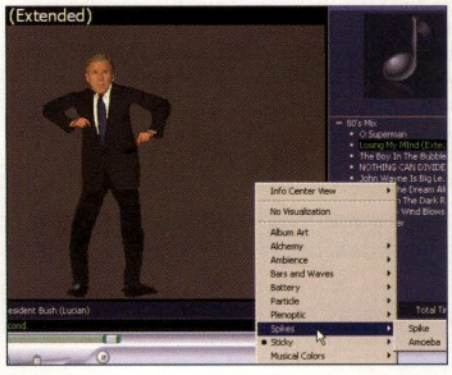
5 Ratings Migration

This version of Windows Media Player lets you rate all the songs in your media library on a star system. You can copy user ratings to MP3 and WMA files, so you can restore the ratings to update Media Library if moving files to a new PC or sharing them.


Stop
Refresh
Home
TweakMP
Windows Media Player 9 Series
General
CD
Full-Screen
General Options
In Media Library
Double-click item to play; press SHIFT and double-click item to queue
Double-click item to queue; press SHIFT and double-click item to play
When double-clicking item to play it
Add item only to the Now Playing playlist
Add item and its playlist or category to the Now Playing playlist
Reset and Restore Settings
Reset All Player Defaults

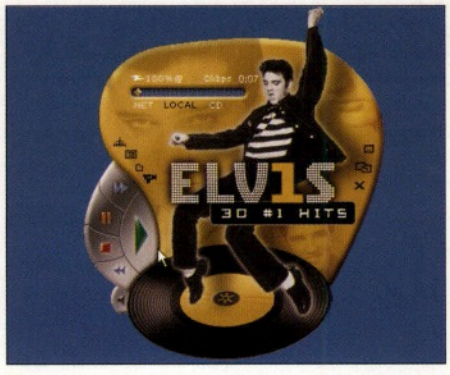
6 TweakMP for Windows XP

This smart plug-in gives XP users easy access to more advanced settings for the media library, CD burning and full-screen modes. It allows you to adjust queuing in the media library, set automatic levelling for audio CD burn and configure full-screen animations.



8 Dancing Stick Figures

If you want to add a bit of fun, you could do worse than install this amusing plug-in containing a series of stick figures that dance in time to the music. Choose from hundreds of characters, such as a disco tomato, President Bush or a breakdancing lobster.



9 Elvis skin

We couldn't finish a guide to plug-ins without including a Windows Media Player skin. This official Elvis skin is one of our favourites, and will get you all shook up with its authentic artwork and the special visualisation screen under the King's feet.

Web resources

WM Plugins

www.wmplugins.com

The definitive resource for Windows Media plug-ins, this official Microsoft site is packed with useful third-party plug-ins, exciting visualisations and gorgeous skins, allowing you to soup up the player to your heart's content. The site is well organised and utilises an effective ratings system, whereby users can say what they think of each add-on.

Winamp skins

www.winamp.com

If you're a devoted Winamp fan and are getting slightly jealous of all these Windows plug-ins, head down to Nullsoft's official Winamp home page, where there are a bevy of skins and plug-ins available for download. Thanks to the Windows Media Player Skins Importer, you can even convert these Winamp skins into WMP format.

Jargon buster

Visualisation

A video effect used by some audio players which allows you to watch randomly generated animations in time with the music. Windows Media Player comes with its own set of visualisations, although you can download more from the Web if you wish.

Plug-in

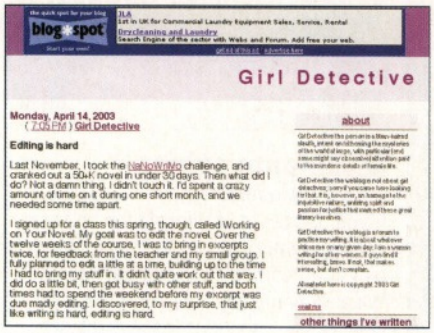
A piece of software that extends the capabilities of an application in a specific way. There are a number of plug-ins available for Windows Media Player that provide you with a range of functions from adding sound effects to changing the appearance of the user interface.

Find it now: Web logs

EACH MONTH WE SET OUR BROWSERS LOOSE TO FIND THE BEST ON THE WEB. THIS ISSUE WE PICK OUR TOP TEN WEB LOGS

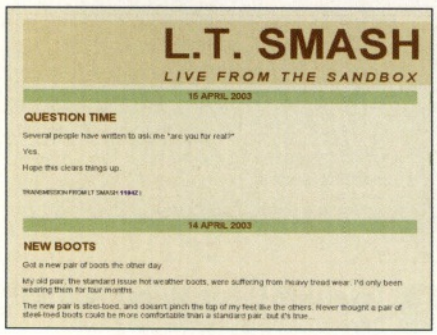
1 Girl Detective
www.girldetective.blogspot.com

While James Brown is adamant that we live in a man's world, this clued-up blogger has other ideas. Girl Detective uses her blog to fathom the mysteries of the world from a female perspective, paying close attention to the ancient arts of hoovering, washing clothes and making smoothies. Lively and well-written, this site isn't just one for the girlies as it provides blokes with a valuable glimpse into the female psyche.



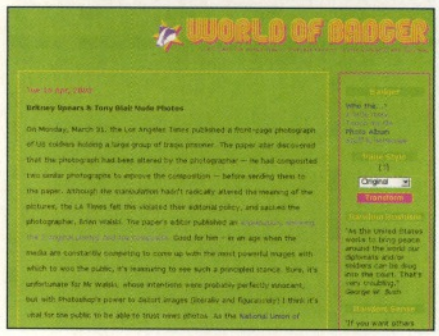
2 L.T. Smash
www.lt-smash.us

Coverage of the war in Iraq was like no other in history, thanks to 24-hour TV and online news. However, it was also remarkable for the fact that soldiers on the frontline could report their experiences via the Web. This enthralling blog by an American Lieutenant documents his daily life in The Gulf, and makes the whole thing seem far more real than anything you'll see on TV. Combining humour, reflection and sadness, this is 'must-read' blogging.



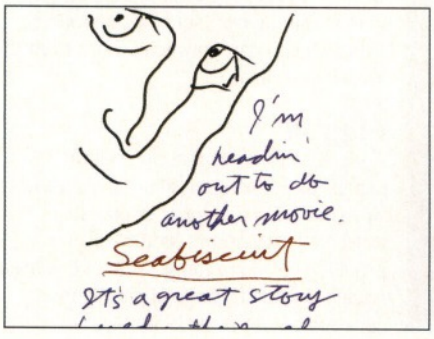
3 World of Badger
outofthetrees.co.uk/badger

The site doesn't contain much about badgers, but it provides a shining example of Web log design excellence. The blog's creator may, by his own admission, be 'another self-absorbed Web designer', but he makes astute comments on the events of the day and provides links to interesting sites and blogs. Disgraced MP and keen badger watcher Ron Davies is sure to be disappointed at the lack of woodland mammal action, though.



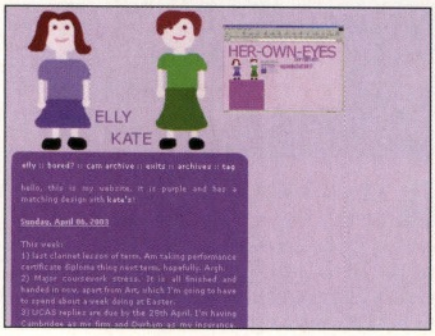
4 Jeff Bridges
www.jeffbridges.com

When he's not starring in films such as *Fearless*, *The Big Lebowski* and *The Fabulous Baker Boys*, Jeff likes nothing better than to recount his escapades in his Web log. The actor certainly knows his design onions, and this is one of the most innovative celebrity blogs around. Using handwriting instead of a standard typeface, the site keeps fans posted on Jeff's latest projects, giving a riveting insight into the life of a Hollywood legend.



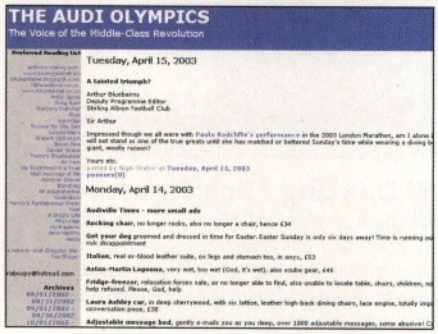
5 Amateurish
www.amateurish.org

Proving that you don't have to be a seasoned Web designer to make an impact online, this stunning blog has been put together by a 17-year-old schoolgirl. Rather like an online version of *The Wonder Years*, its quirky design provides a perfect platform for Elly to mouth off about her annoying schoolmates, coursework and various other growing pains associated with life as a Northampton teenager.

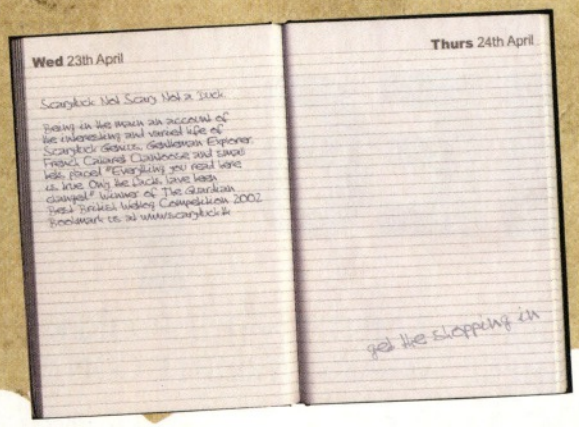


6 The Audi Olympics
www.audiolympics.blogspot.com

Dubbed 'the voice of the middle-class revolution', the Audi Olympics provides a witty commentary on the perils and pitfalls of suburban life. From the mundane to the obscure, the blogger keeps no part of his life to himself, covering everything from his bowel movements at the office to his views on the Government's proposed Dwarf Slavery Act. The transcripts of the blogger's conversations with his work colleagues are particularly amusing.

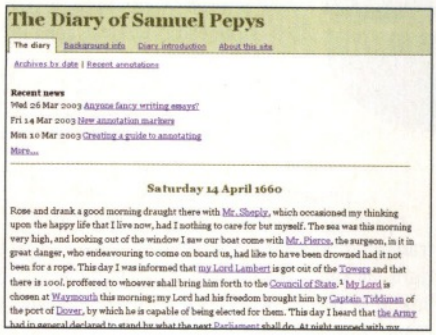


" If Samuel Pepys, the most famous diarist of all time, were around today he'd be one of the Web's biggest bloggers"


Wed 23th April
Thurs 24th April
Scaryduck: Not Scary. Not a Duck.
Being in the main an account of the interesting and varied life of Scaryduck Genius, Gentleman Explorer, French Cabaret Chantoose and small bets placed "Everything you read here is true. Only the facts have been changed." Winner of The Guardian Best British Weblog Competition 2002 Bookmark us at www.scaryduck.tk
get the shopping in

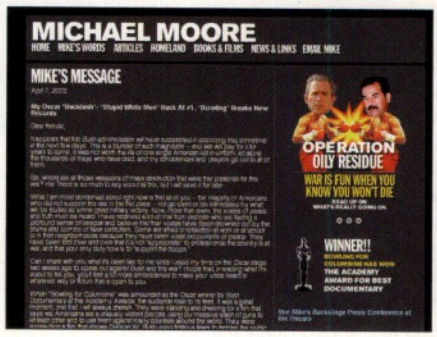
7 Pepys' Diary
www.pepysdiary.com

If Samuel Pepys, the most famous diarist of all time, were around today he'd be one of the Web's biggest bloggers. In his absence, Phil Gyford has set up this Web log charting Pepys' observations around the time of the Great Fire of London. The blog began on 1 January 2003 when Pepys' entry from 1 January 1660 was published, and a new entry from his diary appears every day, providing a gripping account of the life of this historic figure.


The Diary of Samuel Pepys
The diary
Background info
Diary introduction
About this site
Archives by date | Recent annotations
Recent news
Wed 26 Mar 2003 Anyone fancy writing essays?
Fri 14 Mar 2003 New annotation markers
Mon 10 Mar 2003 Creating a guide to annotating
More...
Saturday 14 April 1660
Rose and drank a good morning draught there with Mr. Sheply, which occasioned my thinking upon the happy life that I live now, had I nothing to care for but myself. The sea was this morning very high, and looking out of the window I saw our boat come with Mr. Pierce, the surgeon, in it in great danger, who endeavouring to come on board us, had like to have been drowned had it not been for a rope. This day I was informed that my Lord Lambert is got out of the Towers and that there is 100l. proffered to whoever shall bring him forth to the Council of State.1 My Lord is chosen at Weymouth this morning; my Lord had his freedom brought him by Captain Tiddiman of the port of Dover, by which he is capable of being elected for them. This day I heard that the Army had in general declared to stand by what the next Parliament shall do. At night supped with my

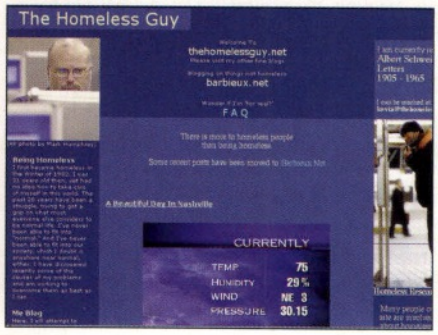
8 Michael Moore
michaelmoore.com

After making his controversial acceptance speech at the Oscars, US satirist Michael Moore's profile mushroomed. The star, who penned the bestseller *Stupid White Men*, uses his blog to hammer home his opinions (mainly on war and George Bush). You can get an insight into how he forms his opinions through links to books, articles and music he's enjoyed, and gain an unmissable glimpse into crime, corruption and corporate dirty tricks in the States.


MICHAEL MOORE
HOME MIKE'S WORDS ARTICLES HOMELAND BOOKS & FILMS NEWS & LINKS EMAIL MIKE
MIKE'S MESSAGE
OPERATION OILY RESIDUE
WAR IS FUN WHEN YOU KNOW YOU WON'T DIE
READ UP ON WHAT'S REALLY GOING ON
WINNER!!
BOWLING FOR COLUMBINE HAS WON THE ACADEMY AWARD FOR BEST DOCUMENTARY

9 The Homeless Guy
thehomelessguy.blogspot.com

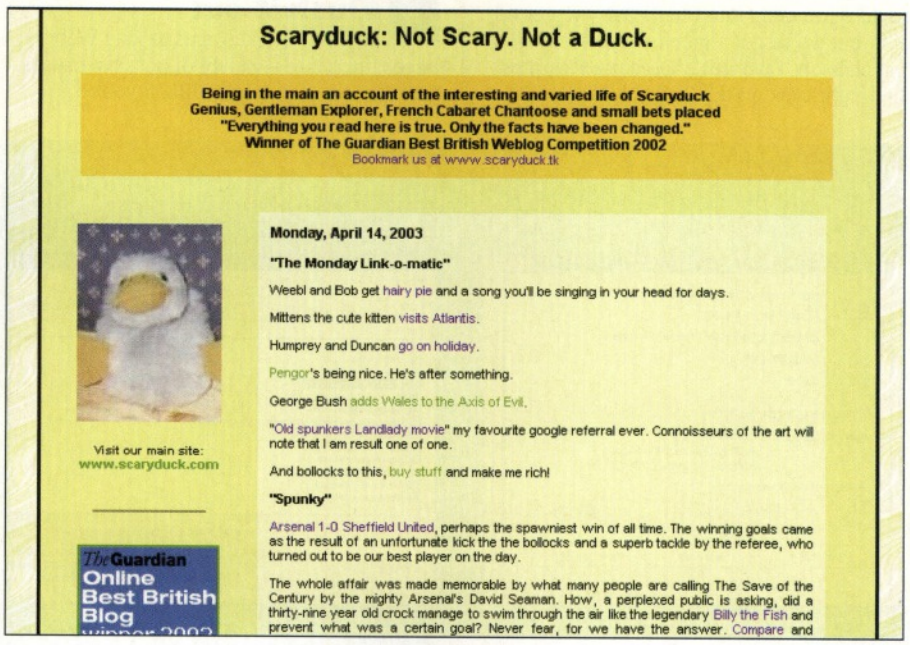
Kevin Barbieux has been homeless for 20 years and paints a picture of the realities of life on the street, updating his blog in public libraries. Far from being tinged with self-pity or regret, Kevin is keen to show readers that there's more to a homeless person than being homeless, and uses his Weblog to demonstrate this. Eloquently written, the blog is full of humorous, eye-opening and downright weird stories, with links to some of Kev's top sites.



10 Scary Duck
scaryduck.blogspot.com

It's not scary and it's not a duck, but Scary Duck is in fact a shining example of what makes a good Web log. Combining a colourful design with reams of insightful and often hilarious comment, the blog is one of the most absorbing around and is the perfect place to go for some light relief after a busy day. Scary Duck uses the blog to recount his amusing anecdotes about exploding fish, shamed *Blue Peter* presenters or the time when George Harrison asked him to f*** off. The witterings of this avid Arsenal fan are interspersed with funny pictures, links to daft Web sites and general irreverent schoolboy humour.

Many bloggers end up with a Web log that looks a little lame or contrived when trying to pull off this sort of japery, but Scary pulls it off very well. He's even been recognised by *The Guardian* – who awarded the site the title of Weblog of the Year – and has opened his own online store which does a nice line in Scary Duck sweatshirts, boxer shorts and baseball caps.


Scaryduck: Not Scary. Not a Duck.
Being in the main an account of the interesting and varied life of Scaryduck
Genius, Gentleman Explorer, French Cabaret Chantoose and small bets placed
"Everything you read here is true. Only the facts have been changed."
Winner of The Guardian Best British Weblog Competition 2002
Bookmark us at www.scaryduck.tk
Visit our main site:
www.scaryduck.com
The Guardian Online Best British Blog
Monday, April 14, 2003
"The Monday Link-o-matic"
Weebl and Bob get hairy pie and a song you'll be singing in your head for days.
Mittens the cute kitten visits Atlantis.
Humprey and Duncan go on holiday.
Pengor's being nice. He's after something.
George Bush adds Wales to the Axis of Evil.
"Old spunkers Landlady movie" my favourite google referral ever. Connoisseurs of the art will note that I am result one of one.
And bollocks to this, buy stuff and make me rich!
"Spunky"
Arsenal 1-0 Sheffield United, perhaps the spawniest win of all time. The winning goals came as the result of an unfortunate kick the the bollocks and a superb tackle by the referee, who turned out to be our best player on the day.
The whole affair was made memorable by what many people are calling The Save of the Century by the mighty Arsenal's David Seaman. How, a perplexed public is asking, did a thirty-nine year old crock manage to swim through the air like the legendary Billy the Fish and prevent what was a certain goal? Never fear, for we have the answer. Compare and

IE6 power tips

DON'T LET INTERNET EXPLORER GET YOU DOWN. WITH THE HELP OF THESE TWEAKS, WRESTLE CONTROL OF YOUR BROWSING BACK

1 Quick cache

If you've got broadband, then there's a fair chance that the much-lauded Temporary Internet Files folder is doing you more harm than good. Every time you go to a previously visited page, IE6 will start looking for the page components on your hard drive to 'speed' everything up. This caching of files was traditionally much, much quicker than searching over your Internet connection – especially in the days of 14Kb modems. Times have changed, however, and this process now takes longer than downloading the files from the site – assuming you're endowed with a big, fat pipe. Do yourself a favour and go to 'Tools', 'Internet Options', 'Settings', then set the disk space figure to '1Mb' – which is the lowest setting you can choose.

2 Links begone

We've all deleted the 'Links' folder from the Favorites list, only to find the slippery customer back in its original place 10 minutes later. Okay, so the Links folder does nothing, but it's quite frankly irritating. Let's face it, it's included when you first install IE, and we've yet to find anyone who actually places their bookmarks into it. You could delve deep into the Registry to get rid of it, but we've got a much easier method. Just click on 'Favorites', 'Organise Favorites' then right-click on the 'Links' folder and choose 'Properties'. In here, tick the boxes next to 'Hidden' and 'Read Only'. Next time you open up Internet Explorer, you'll be rid of the unwanted and unnecessary Links folder once and for all.

3 Address unknown

We've resisted it so far, but you'll need a bit of Registry twiddling to get the best of this tip, which allows you to get rid of the URLs that appear in the address bar when you start typing in a Web address – revealing essential information about where you've been browsing to anyone who uses your machine. Straight down to it, then: open up the Registry Editor by pressing 'WINDOWS' + 'R', then type 'regedit'. In here, navigate to HKEY_CURRENT_USER\Software\Microsoft\Internet Explorer\Typed URLs
You can now just remove all the addresses you don't want other people to see.

4 Flush it out

If your PC takes ages to load Web pages, there are a variety of possible causes. Open up IE, then type a URL. If you're waiting for ages for your browser to find the page in question, then your DNS Cache is probably shot. Thankfully, there's a quick fix to resolve this situation. Click on the 'Start' button, then choose 'Accessories', 'Command prompt'. In this MS-DOS window, simply type 'ipconfig/flushdns', which performs a DNS flush, a pompous way of saying that the DNS information has been cleared.

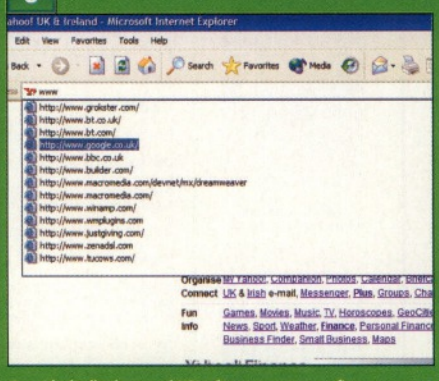
5 Shift it quick

At the moment, Internet Explorer seems to be just about the only browser on the planet that doesn't support multi-tabbed browsing. Unless you want to get stuck in a back button nightmare, then the best route to navigating successfully tends to be opening each link in a new page. The traditional method of achieving this sees you right-clicking on links and choosing 'Open link in new window'. This provides a decent result, but it's far too much clicking for our liking. Take the easy route, and hold down the 'SHIFT' key while you click on any link. As if by magic, your selected link will open in a new window, and you haven't had to right-click once either.

1

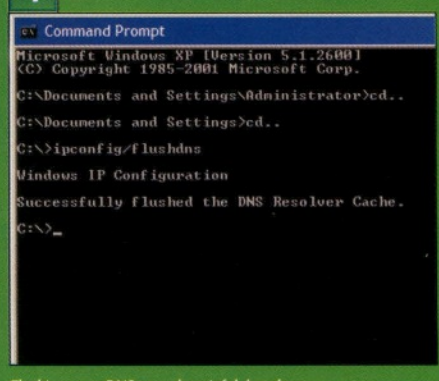
The cache might not be the timesaver you think it is

3



Get rid of tell-tale stored URLs for true secret surfing

4



Flushing your DNS sounds painful, but does you a turn

6 Pity the full (screen)

Internet Explorer has a really handy habit of opening up new windows at whatever size it feels like, which is a pain in the backside for anyone who prefers a maximised window – and you'll soon find that clicking on the square in the corner quickly becomes tiresome. You can, however, make each and every new IE6 window maximised automatically with these two registry tweaks. First off, go to HKEY_CURRENT_USER\Console find 'fullscreen', then modify the value to '1'. Next up, go to HKEY_CURRENT_USER\Software\Microsoft\InternetExplorer\Main then change the 'Find Fullscreen' value to 'yes'.

7 Route one

This is an old one, but it's something that many people still don't know about, so we thought we'd throw it into the mix. Basically, there's no need to enter the 'www' and '.com' parts of any top-level domain Web site. Instead of this, you can simply choose to use one of the more secret of Internet Explorer's functions. So, instead of typing 'www.google.com', you can simply type 'google' and press 'CTRL' + 'ENTER', and the search engine will appear in your browser window. Having said that, you really should have the search giant as your home page by now anyway.

8 Where to is it?

Finding a file once you've downloaded it to the murky depths of your cluttered and messed up hard drive can be a right royal pain, especially as IE6 often seems to save files to folders that other programs wouldn't touch with a barge pole. You can make your life much easier by creating your own default download folder, although it does involve another bit of delving into the Registry. Find your way to: 'HKEY_CURRENT_USER\Software\Microsoft\Internet Explorer' Right-click on the 'Download Value' then choose Modify to enter the path of the folder you'd like to use.

9 No home to go to

We've told you this one before, but there's no harm in ramming home a point again if it's worth making. For the fastest possible loading of Internet Explorer, the trick is to stop the program looking for a home page to boot up with. This way, all you have to wait for is the basic interface to open. To achieve this, create a shortcut to your copy of Internet Explorer on your desktop (or anywhere else you like, really). Right-click on the shortcut, then choose 'Properties'. Under 'Shortcut' section, add ' –nohome' after the address in the 'Target' box.

10 Password pleas

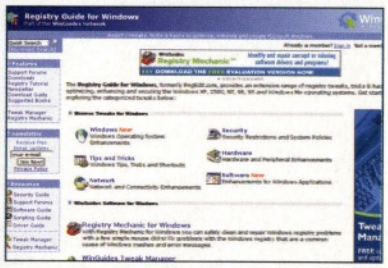
Entering your password to sites that you're a member of can be a right pain, so here's a good way of saving on effort. Instead of going to the home page then signing in like you normally do, you can simply enter your username and password before the URL, in the following manner: 'http://username:password@www.site.com'. Having done this, you have a variety of options. You can create a shortcut to this page for easier access by dragging the page icon onto your desktop. Alternatively, you could simply bookmark this page, to be taken to your own individual login every time. Even just typing the URL in the address bar will set AutoComplete running – however you do it, you're guaranteed to save yourself the hassle of signing in each and every time you visit a membership site.

Web resources

Microsoft How-to

www.microsoft.com/windows/ie/using/howto/default.asp

You might not automatically turn to Microsoft for impartial advice on how to get the best out of Internet Explorer, but this microsite does actually have a few good titbits of information, all of which are designed to improve your IE life.

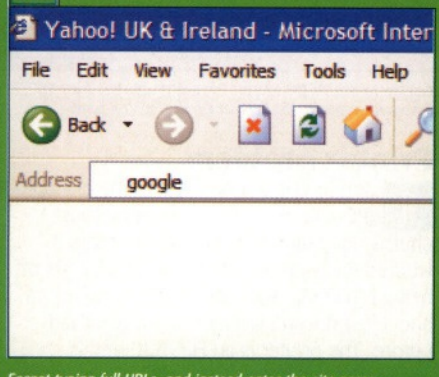


Windows Registry Guide

www.winguides.com/registry

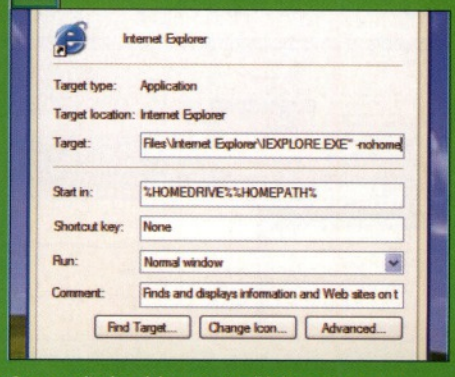
Probably the best Registry tweaking guide on the Net, this site is jam-packed with all manner of walkthroughs and tips on how to improve every aspect of virtually every version of Windows. Basically, it's a bit of a one-stop shop for Registry-tweaking wannabes.

7



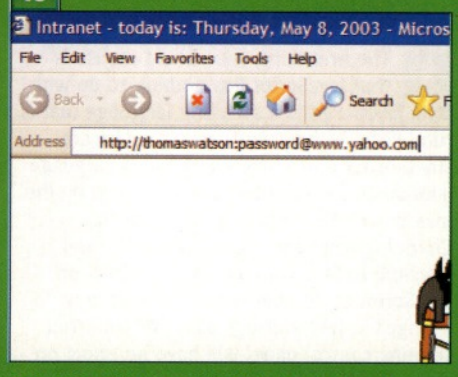
Forget typing full URLs, and instead enter the site name

9



Get a speedier launch by removing all links to a home page

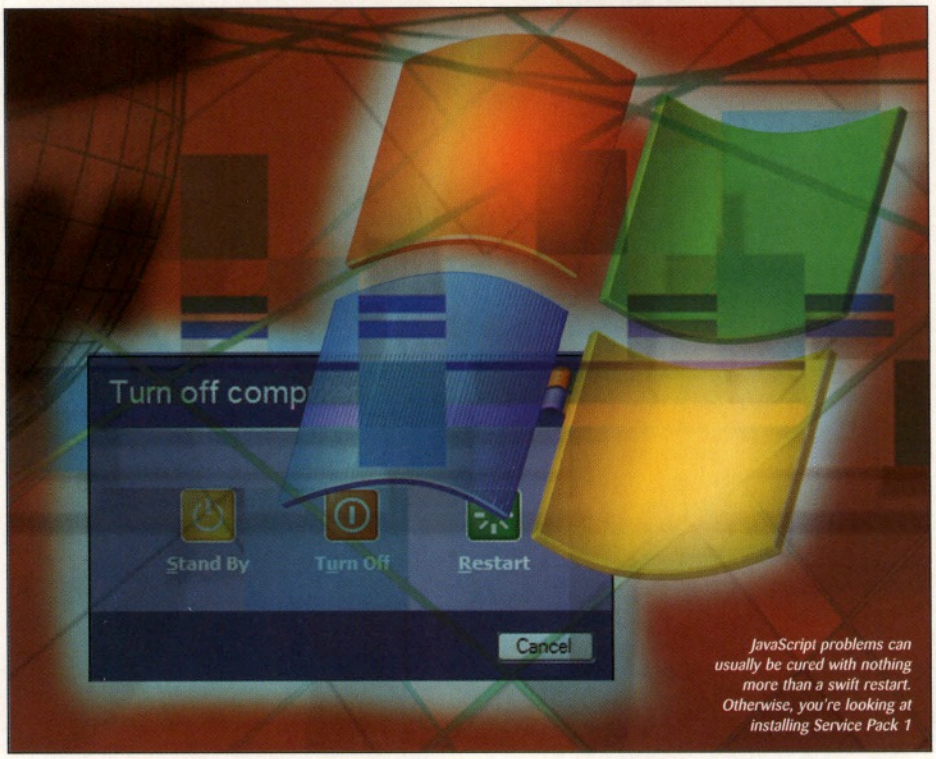
10



Save time by entering password-protected sites in this way

Q&A
Web browsing

EMAIL **CLIVE PARKER** AT **HELPDESK@PARAGON.CO.UK** THEN SIT BACK AND RELAX WHILE HE SORTS OUT YOUR LIFE



JavaScript problems can usually be cured with nothing more than a swift restart. Otherwise, you're looking at installing Service Pack 1

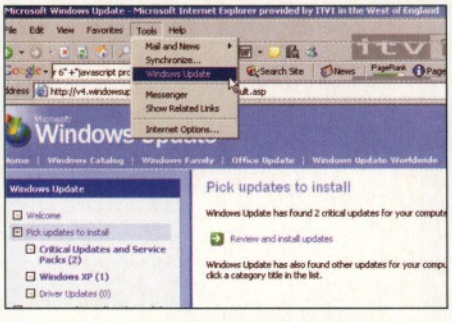
No script

Q I am running Windows XP Professional on my PC and I can't open JavaScript files on the Web. The boxes are ticked in the Internet Options control panel and I have even downloaded SunJava. This has not worked. I have tried running Internet Explorer 6 with my Kaspersky antiviral and anti-hacker software removed and it still does not work. Can you help me please?

Dave Champion

A **The first thing you should realise is that JavaScript has nothing to do with Java. JavaScript is a scripting language that is run by the Web browser. Java applets are small programs written in the Java language (similar to C) and interpreted and run by the Java Virtual Machine (JVM) on your PC. Changing from the Microsoft Java Virtual Machine to SunJava will have no effect on JavaScript or its operation. Likewise, any changes in Java settings using the Internet Options control panel will have no effect on the operation of JavaScript.**

This problem usually occurs with the original version of Internet Explorer 6 running under Windows XP Professional or Windows XP Home Edition. The quick and dirty solution is to restart your PC; this usually clears the problem for a while. The best cure is to go to the Windows Update page at Microsoft and download Internet Explorer 6 Service Pack 1 along with any other updates to Windows XP Professional that are available. This will cure the problem in the long term.



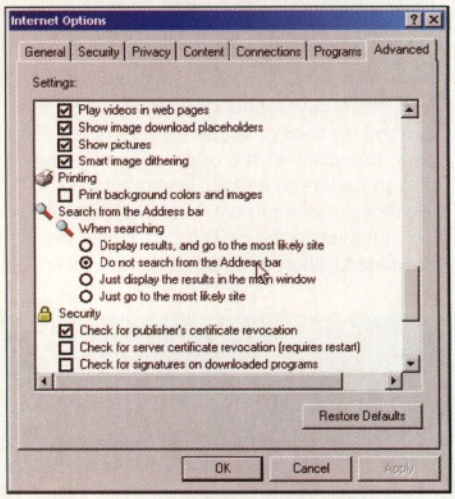
Using Windows Update should fix most of your JavaScript problems in Internet Explorer 6

Search party

Q I'm getting a little annoyed with Internet Explorer 6. Sometimes, when I type in an address that doesn't begin with the traditional 'www', Internet Explorer 6 performs a search for the address instead of using it as a valid Web site address. I invariably get the results of the search back that says MSN is unable to find anything related to the address. I don't even use MSN! How can I make Internet Explorer 6 recognise non-standard URLs?

Jonathan Monie

A **This is one of those annoying Internet Explorer 6 'features' that is activated as standard when the browser is installed. Like most settings in Internet Explorer 6, it can be modified using the Internet Options control panel. Go to the 'Tools' menu of Internet Explorer 6 and select the 'Internet Options' command. Now click on the 'Advanced' tab of the control panel and scroll down the window until you find 'Search From the Address Bar' settings. There are four radio buttons here. Select the 'Do not search from the Address bar' button then click the 'Apply' button. Close the Internet Options control panel, then close Internet Explorer 6. The next time you launch Internet Explorer 6 you will be able to type any address into the address bar and it will be treated as a Web address and not as a search string.**



You can switch off the address bar search function from the Advanced section of the Internet Options control panel

Printer problem

Q I'm having a problem with my old laptop PC and my printer. The printer just churns out page after page of gibberish. It worked fine with my other laptop, which is off being repaired. I've plugged my old laptop in and it just doesn't work even though it did before. The printer is an HP952C and is connected using a parallel cable. I also use the

laptop for scanning; the scanner is also connected via the parallel port. Do you have any idea what the problem is?

Richard Wyatt

A **It's probably a very simple problem to solve. I think that your parallel cable runs from your laptop to the scanner, then from the scanner to the printer. If you switch on the scanner then your printer should work okay.**

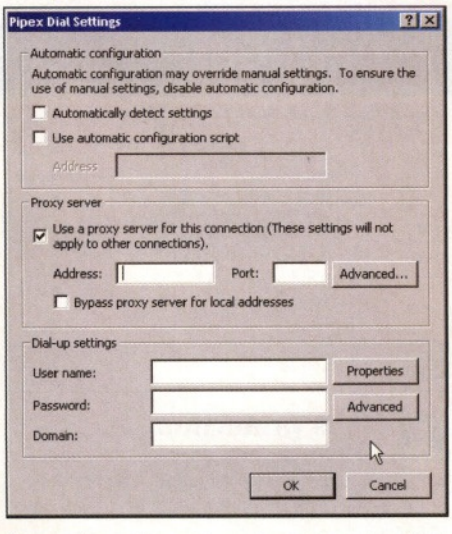
Slow browsing

Q I've noticed that Internet Explorer 6 is becoming very sluggish when browsing the Web; some pages take more than a minute to open. Are there any settings I should be aware of that can slow down the performance of Internet Explorer 6?

Kate Williams

A **You could try a little maintenance on your system and check a couple of things. First of all you should make sure that no other software is running when you are using Internet Explorer 6 to browse the Web. If you have a firewall program installed, try running Internet Explorer 6 with the firewall software disabled and see if this makes any difference. If Internet Explorer 6 now runs okay you have found the problem.**

Next, does your Internet service provider require you to use a proxy server? You can find out by going to the home page of your Internet service provider and going to the support pages – all of your browser settings will be listed here. If you do need to enter proxy settings go to the 'Tools' menu of Internet Explorer 6 and select 'Internet Options', then click on the 'Connection' tab. Select the service provider dial-up in the window and click on the 'Settings' button. In the panel select the 'Proxy' checkbox and type in the proxy server details.



If your service provider requires you to use a proxy server, this is where you enter the details

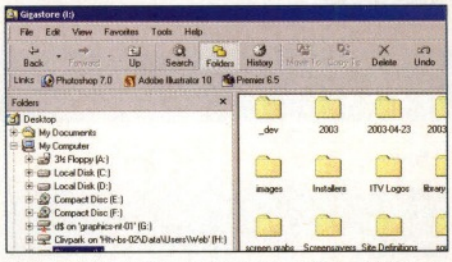
Finally, check your browser settings for History and Temporary Internet Files. Go to 'Tools', then 'Internet Options' and select the 'General' tab. If you are using a modem then you should set your disk space to around 100Mb. Click on the 'Settings' button for Temporary Internet files and change the setting. Exit and click on the 'Delete Files' button to clear all the old files. You could also clear your History files, because these will take up space on your hard drive too. Click the 'Clear History' button and set the number of days to save files to '14'. Hopefully, one or all of these suggestions will help speed up your browsing.

Long filenames

Q Can you please help? I'm using Windows Me, which lets me enter long filenames but then converts them to short filenames when I move the files. Can you please suggest what I can do to keep the long filenames? Thank you.

Fred

A **Fred, I suspect you are using Windows File Manager to copy and move files around on your Windows Me PC. Windows File Manager is a 16-bit program that is included with Windows 95, Windows 98 and Windows Me for backwards compatibility with earlier Windows-based programs. Because it is a 16-bit program and uses DOS filenames, it does not support long filenames. To get around this you should use Windows Explorer to copy, move and manage files to ensure your files retain their long filenames.**



If you use Windows Explorer to manage your files and folders, all of the long filenames well be retained

Lite relief

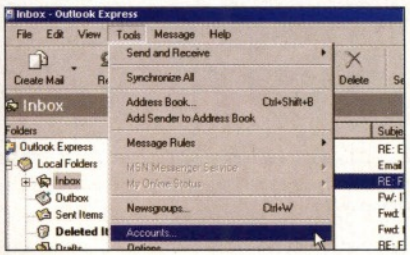
Q I have just got a new computer and do not want to riddle it with spyware from KaZaA Media Desktop, but I do want to use the KaZaA network to share music files. I have heard that there is a KaZaA Lite program that comes without the spyware and adware, but I am not sure where to get it. I have seen two sites; **www.kazaalite.com** and **www.k-lite.tk**. They both say they offer KaZaA Lite, and in the

Mail mix-up

Q I'm using Outlook Express 6 as my email client and a few people have emailed me to say that my name is coming up as 'mail.netgates.co.uk', and my return address is something completely not connected to me and any returned emails bounce. Any idea what could be wrong?

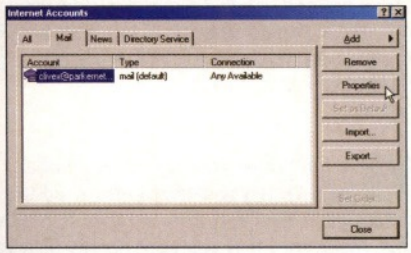
Justin Metcalfe

A **It sounds like your Outlook Express 6 account settings are out of whack. Use the three steps below to sort them out.**



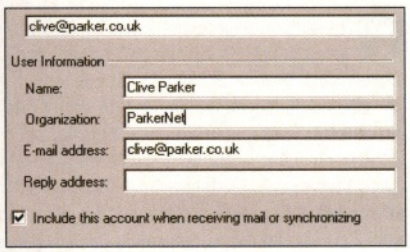
1 On account

Open Outlook Express 6 and go to the 'Tools' menu. At the bottom of the Tools menu select the 'Accounts…' command.



2 Modify the account

In the Internet Accounts window select the account you want to modify in the Account column then click on the 'Properties' button.



3 General stuff

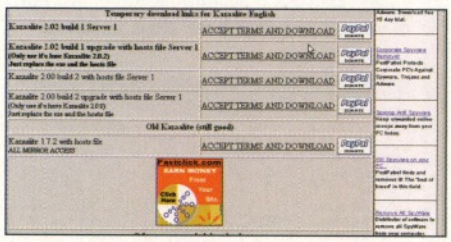
Click 'General' in the Account Properties control panel. Make sure all details in the User Information section are right. It sounds like your name is wrong so correct that. Make sure the Email Address and Reply Address are right. If you have a different Email and Reply Address, Reply will be used for replies. Click 'OK' to save settings.

Q&A
Web browsing

Kazaalite.com terms and conditions they say that they are not affiliated with k-lite.tk. It is all very confusing, could you help? Are they both the same KaZaA Lite or does one have some other things that I would not want on my PC?

Matthew Lowry

A **They are both the same version of KaZaA Lite. I downloaded the version from kazaalite.com and I have installed it on my Windows XP Professional PC without any problems from spyware or adware. You should be able to download and install it without any problems.**


Temporary download links for Kazaalite English
Kazaalite 2.02 build 1 Server 1
ACCEPT TERMS AND DOWNLOAD
Kazaalite 2.02 build 1 upgrade with hosts file Server 1
ACCEPT TERMS AND DOWNLOAD
Kazaalite 2.00 build 2 with hosts file Server 1
ACCEPT TERMS AND DOWNLOAD
Kazaalite 2.00 build 2 upgrade with hosts file Server 1
ACCEPT TERMS AND DOWNLOAD
Old Kazaalite (still good)
Kazaalite 1.7.2 with hosts file
ALL MIRROR ACCESS
ACCEPT TERMS AND DOWNLOAD
Fastclick.com

Remember, burning CDs from MP3 files downloaded from the Internet is illegal

Username

Q Hi, I hope you can solve my problem here. I'm using Windows XP and I have entered the wrong username for Windows registration. For example my name is Fadhli and I have entered 'fdahli' by mistake. How can I edit it? My system uses Microsoft Windows XP Professional Version Intel P4 2.4GHz and 512MB of RAM. Thanks.

Fadhli

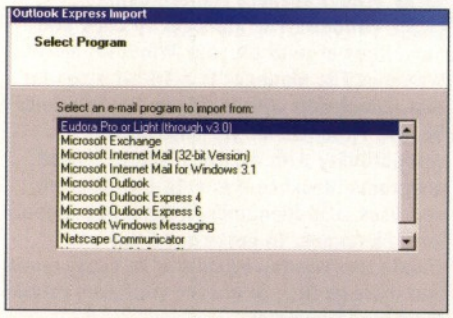
A **I don't think you can edit the initial username you entered into Windows XP unless you reinstall it from scratch. If you do this, make sure that you back up any files you don't want to lose. You should then use your installation CD to install Windows XP. If you have already activated your copy of Windows XP you will have to call the Microsoft help centre so they can give you a manual activation code. Just a thought – how did you manage to spell your own name incorrectly?**

Mail man

Q Having compacted and transferred some email files from Outlook Express 5 to CD-ROM from a PC using Windows 98, could you tell me how to import these into Outlook Express 6 (Windows XP)? Many thanks for your help.

Wayne Barrows

A **It depends on what format you have saved the messages from Outlook Express 5; the Operating Systems involved shouldn't make any difference. I assume you have exported the messages as a single file using the Export command from Outlook Express 5. All you have to do is open Outlook Express 6, stick the CD-ROM with your files into the drive and then use the 'Import', 'Messages' command from the File menu of Outlook Express 6. When the Import window opens, choose the appropriate import format from the window, then browse to the CD and select the file to import. Click 'Next' and the messages will be imported.**



You can import messages into Outlook Express 6 from a variety of email programs

Indelible icon

Q I hope you can help me. I downloaded a site, XXX_Action, from the Internet onto my PC. Now I can't get rid of it. It defies the Delete command and I get a window stating 'Cannot delete this file. Make sure file is not full or write protected.' When I boot up the PC the Internet Explorer window opens onto the desktop without my clicking on it and an icon of the above XXX site remains on the desktop in spite of my dragging it to the Recycle Bin and emptying it beforehand. How can I remove this file from my disk and desktop without causing any further harm? I have Windows 95b, Outlook Express 5 for email and Internet Explorer 5.5 for Web browsing. Frustrated.

L F Jones

A **Well, this is the kind of thing that happens if you visit XXX sites – various bits and pieces can be installed on your PC to override the default settings. I don't have Windows 95 on any of my PCs, but I hope I can explain how to fix things. To delete the icon, right-click on it and select the 'Properties' command. Click on the 'General' tab and look for the 'Attributes' section of the panel. The Read-only attribute will be checked, so uncheck it and click on the 'Apply' button. After you close the Properties panel you should be able to delete the icon.**

There could be three different reasons that Internet Explorer is opening automatically when you boot up your PC. First, perform a search for any folder on your hard drive

No updates

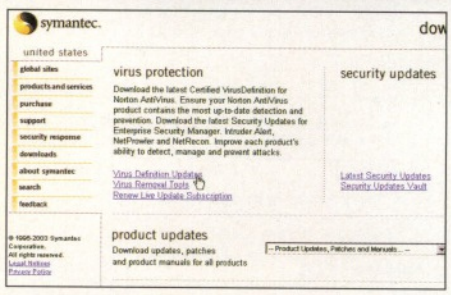
Q I use Norton Internet Security 2003 to protect my BT Openworld broadband connection. When I use Live Update to check for new virus definitions, it tells me that 'all my installed Symantec software is up to date.' But Norton Antivirus 2003 tells me every day that it's not. I've noticed when Live Update runs it shows that the only installed Symantec software is Live Update itself. Can you let me know how to fix this please?

Joe Clark

A **The Norton Security installation is most likely corrupted and the components not registered with Live Update. You need to uninstall it then reinstall, using Add/Remove Programs. You can also update definitions by downloading them from the Symantec site. Follow these steps.**

1 **Get online**

Connect to the Internet in the usual way then open Internet Explorer 6 and go to **www.symantec.com**. On the main page click on the link labelled 'Downloads'.

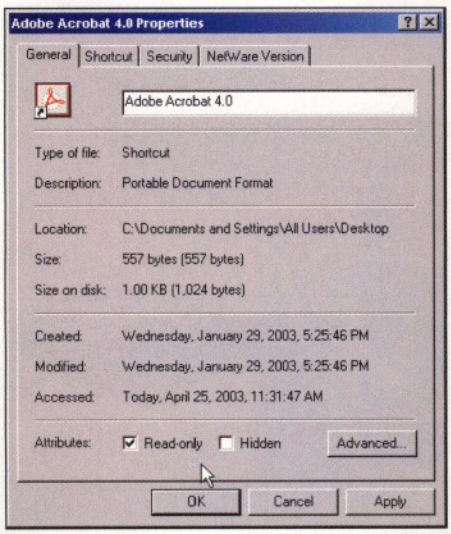


2 **Virus protection**

On the Downloads page look for the first column labelled 'Virus Protection'. The first link in the list is Virus Definition Updates – click on this link.

called 'Startup'. Check each folder that you find and if the Internet Explorer icon appears in any of them, delete it. Next, use Notepad to open a file called AUTOEXEC.BAT in the root of your C drive. Check through the lines of text; if any line appears to be a command that launches the file IEXPLORE.EXE, delete the line and save the file. If it is not in this file, the last place to check is the BOOT.INI file, also stored in the root of drive C. Open it with Notepad and look for a line containing IEXPLORE.EXE; if it's there, delete the line and save the file.

Finally, you need to open the 'Internet Options' control panel, go to the 'General' tab and click on the 'Use Blank' button in the Home Page section. This means that if you open Internet Explorer it will not try and connect to any Web site.



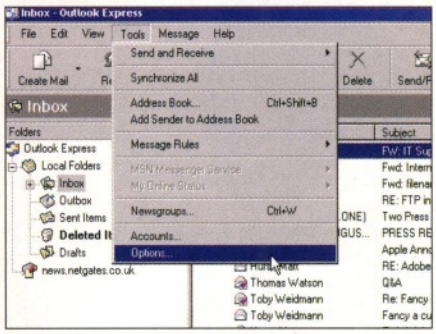
De-selecting the Read-only attribute of file will enable you to delete it, and might spare you from embarrassing windows

Won't send

Q I'm a new Internet user and I've got a bit of a problem with Outlook Express 6. When I connect to the Internet and open Outlook Express, it won't send and receive emails unless I click on the Send/Recv button in the toolbar. Is there any way I can set up Outlook Express so that it will send and receive email automatically?

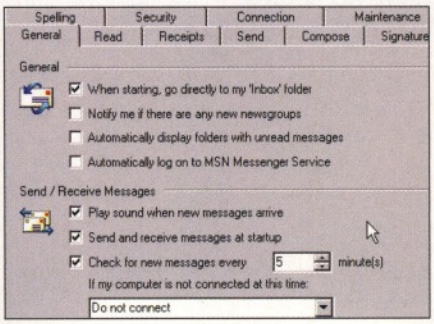
Bob Harris

A **Hi Bob, welcome to the Internet. You can set up Outlook Express to send and receive automatically, plus you can check for mail as soon as you launch the program and have Outlook check for mail at regular intervals while you are online. Follow these three steps.**



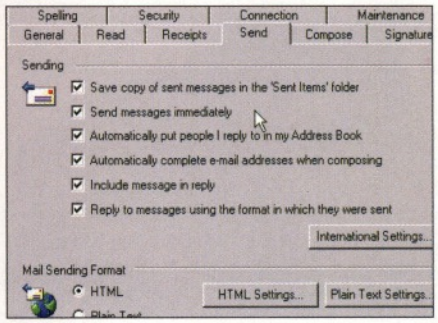
1 Use the options

Open Outlook Express 6 and go to the 'Tools' menu. At the bottom of the Tools menu select the 'Options…' command.



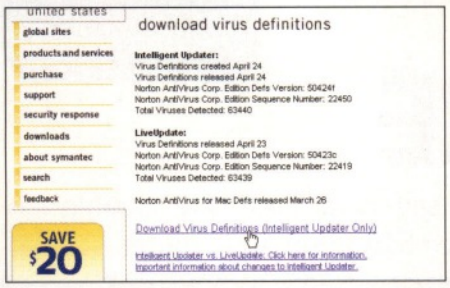
2 General setting

Near the bottom of the General tab panel is a section called Send/Receive Messages. Select the 'Send and receive messages at startup' box and the 'Check for new messages every xx minutes' box. Insert the number of minutes between mail checks.



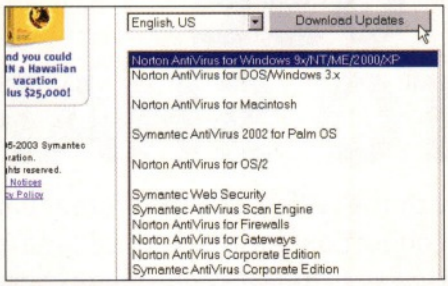
3 Send options

Now click on the 'Send' tab of the Outlook Express 6 control panel. There are several options you can select here – you should select the 'Send messages immediately' box to send messages automatically when you click the Send button.



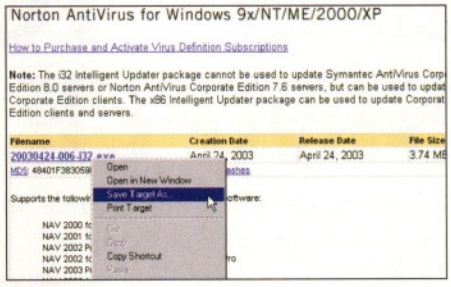
3 Be intelligent

On the Download Virus Definitions page click on the link labelled 'Download Virus Definitions (Intelligent Updater Only)'.



4 Choose your OS

The page now changes and a window appears where you can choose the Operating System you use. Select the first option, 'Norton AntiVirus for Windows 9x/NT/Me/2000/XP' and click on the 'Download Updates' button.



5 Save the file

On the next page right-click on the filename at the top of the column and select 'Save Target As'. Use the file selector to save the file. After the file downloads, use Windows Explorer to find it then double-click on it to update your virus definitions.

SHARE YOUR BROADBAND

EASY TO USE
SIMPLE TO SHARE

At dslsource we aim to provide you with the widest choice of broadband self-install hardware suitable for sharing your broadband internet connection: including the SpeedTouch 510 UPnP ADSL router.

dslsource.co.uk

0870 600 3332

www.dslsource.co.uk

Your Business Online

EXPERT ADVICE ON CREATING PROFITABLE SMALL BUSINESSES

Welcome...

PEOPLE ARE ALWAYS scared of anything new. It's not a phenomenon related just to the Internet, but we always seem to be really surprised when a new survey comes out saying that the public are still quite scepticle about spending money on the Net. Things are changing all the time, but it seems that a large number of punters still don't like the idea of giving out their card details on the Web.

You and I both know that this isn't true, and that many of the eCommerce sites are more reputable and trustworthy than their high street counterparts – but it seems that it's going to take a bit longer for the online revolution to hit home to everyone in the UK.

Thomas Watson, Editor
thomas@paragon.co.uk

Contents

95 Your Business Online news
Catch up with the latest news, including a prediction that half of all outsourced projects will fail in 2003

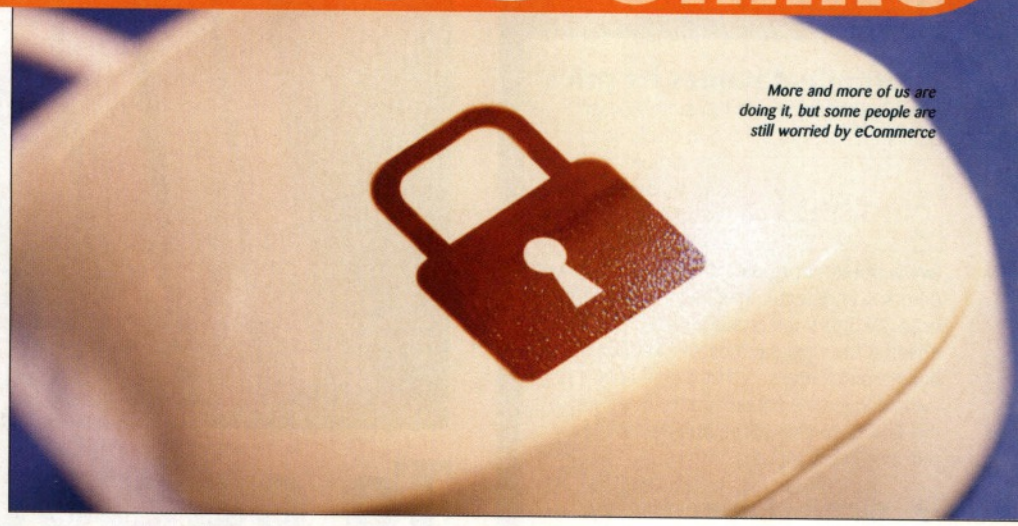
97 Q&A
Gerard Liston gets his teeth sunk into Gordon Brown's budget

98 How do they do that?
We ask IceCool how they persuade nervy online customers to part with big bucks for diamonds and pearls

100 Choose the right domain name
Cindy Duffield gives you the lowdown on one of the most important business decisions you make

104 Create an online database
Learn how to take your first steps in database management with the full version of 4D 6.7 on this month's CD

108 Web hosting listings
Pick your perfect hosting provider with the help of our comprehensive listings guide



More and more of us are doing it, but some people are still worried by eCommerce

Online buyers still nervous over security

COMPANIES URGED TO REASSURE CUSTOMERS THAT THEIR PERSONAL DETAILS WILL BE SAFE

DESPITE THE BEST efforts from businesses to reassure customers over site security, privacy fears are still the number one reason why people refuse to shop online.

That's the verdict of professional services company KPMG (**www.kpmg.co.uk**), which conducted a survey of 2,076 UK Net users. Despite recent advancements in security technology, a quarter of respondents said the safety of sensitive data online was their biggest concern.

"INFORMATION SECURITY IS CLEARLY THE BIGGEST CONCERN FOR WEB CONSUMERS" ROBERT COLES

Fears over misuse of data came out second on the list of eCommerce worries, with twelve per cent of respondents expressing concern over their information falling into the wrong hands. Nine per cent of those questioned said they were most put off online shopping by the risk of hackers and viruses.

"Information security is clearly the biggest concern for Web consumers, and the research shows that it is actually putting them off buying online," said Robert Coles, Head of Information Security Services at KPMG. "Companies must start taking greater steps to communicate what they are doing to ensure security on their Web sites, and allay customer fears about the privacy of personal information."

There was some good news for legitimate online retailers, as the survey revealed that online consumers most value independent endorsement in giving them assurance over the security of the Web sites they use. A massive 38 per cent of respondents said that evidence of British Standards for Security accreditation (BS7799) on a Web site would make them feel the most comfortable about purchasing and banking on the Net.

The DTI has recently stated that only a small fraction of British firms have sought the voluntary BS7799 accreditation, and that if companies wish to do business with the Government online in the future, they must comply with the standard.

Coles added: "Security accreditation may be low on businesses' list of priorities, but consumers clearly expect it, and unless companies give IT security a higher profile, standards such as BS7799 could well become mandatory."

News in brief

→ Nominet names its price

Anyone thinking about transferring a .uk domain name into someone else's name should brace themselves for a charge. Nominet (**www.nominet.org.uk**), the registry for all domains ending .uk, has begun charging users £35 to transfer a domain. Up until now the task has been carried out for free, but Nominet stressed that it could no longer cover the administrative costs for the 2,500 domain name transfers it receives every month.

→ World of opportunity

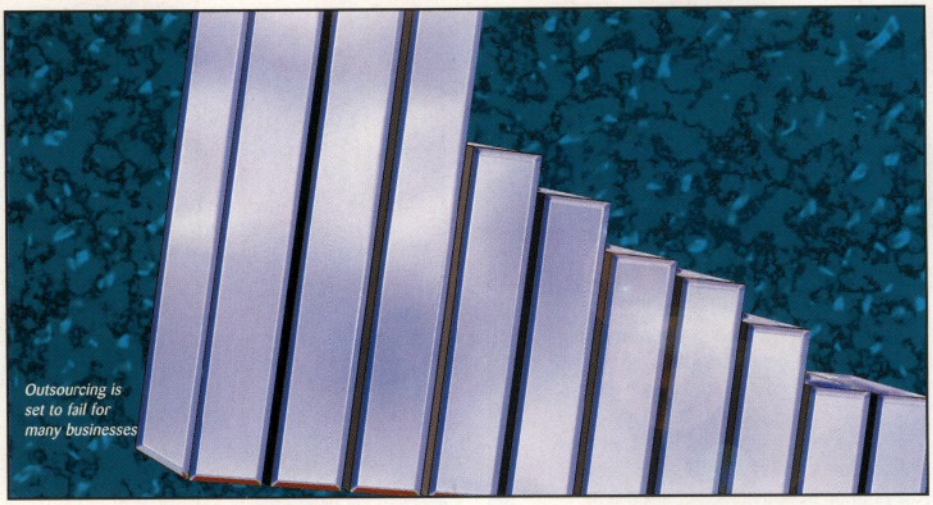
Small businesses can now get their eCommerce site off the ground without having to splash out on a computer. PC World is offering small firms the chance to rent computers and IT equipment from stores and the company's online store for businesses at www.pcwb.com. Derek Lloyd, UK managing director of PC World Business noted: "Our group has a history of bringing new technology to consumers at affordable prices, and this offer has translated well for business customers."

→ Turning pro

Doctors, lawyers and accountants will soon have their own home online, following the launch of the new '.pro' domain ending. The domain, due to go live in July, will mean that doctors can use .pro Web sites to email prescriptions, and lawyers can sign contracts online, thanks to built-in technologies that encrypt communications and enable digital signatures. Further information is available from the domain's registry at **www.registrypro.com.**

→ Mobile money

Got a PDA? You can now check the latest stocks and shares on the move, thanks to the launch of a mobile financial data service specifically for handheld devices. The 'PDA Mobile' service from ADVFN costs £30 a month and provides money-savvy users with access to live quotes, live trade screens, news and charting functions for the FTSE and London Stock Exchange. Find further details at www.advfn.com/pda.



Outsourcing is set to fail for many businesses

To outsource or not to outsource

EXPERTS WARN THAT HALF OF ALL OUTSOURCED IT PROJECTS ARE DOOMED TO FAILURE DUE TO BAD COMMUNICATION

SMALL BUSINESSES ARE being warned not to pin all their tech dreams on outsourced IT projects.

That's the conclusion of technology analyst Gartner, which predicts that 50 per cent of all outsourced IT projects will fail in 2003 as the result of poor communication between external service providers and their clients.

The research firm blames the anticipated high rate of failure on irregular contact hampering the project management process, due to poor visibility at crucial times. However, Business Engine, developer of collaborative project portfolio management software, reckons that successful projects can be achieved by providing both enterprise and supplier managers and executives with real-time visibility and real control across IT projects.

While Gartner is calling for better communication via regular meetings, Business Engine believes that advances in single-source Web-based collaborative software means that enterprises can manage, track and monitor supplier performance without relying on formal meetings.

"Without strong external supplier management, projects can veer off course, service levels and targets slip, and businesses lose time and money," said Mark Straunch, managing director of Business Engine.

"It is essential that companies take advantage of the latest collaboration, enabling practices and technology to work effectively as a virtual team, and ensure that a breakdown in communication never happens."

eBAY TOPS UK ECOMMERCE LEAGUE

HUGELY SUCCESSFUL AUCTION FIRM OVERTAKES AMAZON AS THE NUMBER ONE ONLINE BUSINESS IN BRITAIN

eBAY HAS KNOCKED Amazon from its perch to become the top eCommerce site in the UK.

According to stats from analysis firm Nielsen NetRatings, eBay's UK site has increased its audience by over 160 per cent since March 2002, to hit more than six million users. During the same period, visitors to Amazon.co.uk rose by 40 per cent to reach 5.2 million.

The research also revealed that visitors to eBay spend an average of one hour 11 minutes browsing for goods, making it one of the stickiest sites in Britain. The auction firm has announced that its profits more than doubled during the first three months of 2003, compared with the same period last year.

"Over the last 12 to 18 months there's been an awful lot of bad news, and a lot of investment has been pulled out of the Internet because people don't believe you can make money," Tim Roe, senior international analyst at Nielsen NetRatings told BBC News Online. "These two companies prove that there is money to be made and that the market is growing massively."

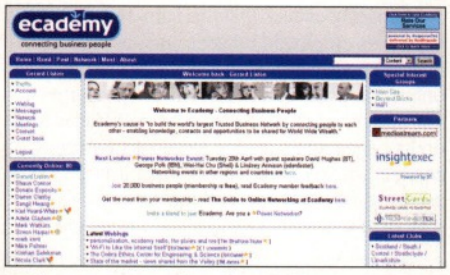
Your Business Online Q&A

2003 BUDGET SPECIAL

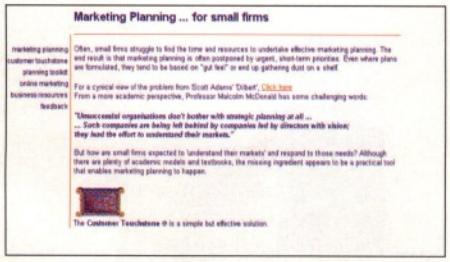
EVERY ISSUE, OUR RESIDENT EXPERT, **GERARD LISTON** FROM SMALLBIZ UK, ANSWERS YOUR QUESTIONS. CONTACT GERARD BY EMAILING **PI@PARAGON.CO.UK** OR VISITING THE YOUR BUSINESS ONLINE WEB SITE AT **WWW.YBOANSWERS.CO.UK**

Q WHERE DO SMALL FIRMS FIND INSPIRATION AFTER AN 'UNINSPIRING' BUDGET?

A The Federation of Small Businesses condemned Gordon Brown's budget in March, calling it 'uninspiring'. It had called for various measures from the Treasury, including 100 per cent First Year Allowances on business premises, a reduction in VAT of five per cent for firms in the construction industry and an assurance that duty on non-petroleum fuels will be maintained at their current level. After the event, the federation argued that small businesses would see through what it called a 'blend of rehashed announcements and tax freezes'. So, if the budget was uninspiring for small firms, where should small firms look for inspiration?



Ecademy is a community of roughly 20,000 business people who either run their own companies or are in senior positions



Customer Touchstone contains a wealth of information designed to give you the full lowdown on marketing your business properly

Undoubtedly, the FSB is right to try and remove the burden of regulations and taxation from growing firms. But, in my experience, small firms tend not to be inspired by government initiatives or by a lack of 'Red Tape'. Other factors play a much more important role – providing the motivation and setting the direction for success. So, rather than worrying about things that are largely out of our control, let me suggest a few measures that are within the control of every small business.

Build your business network

Although it can be lonely running your own business, finding time to meet other business people at local events is difficult when you are working a 10-12 hour day. One solution is to build a business network online.

Ecademy (**www.ecademy.com**) is a community of around 20,000 business people, most of whom are running their own firms or are in senior positions in their organisations. By using personal descriptions, including 50 keywords, it is possible to quickly identify those individuals with whom is may be worth communicating.

If you are setting up an online business, Beyond Bricks (**www.beyondbricks.com**) is a community of 5,000 Internet entrepreneurs. Just remember the three key questions when networking: Is this person a potential customer? Is this person a potential supplier? Do I know someone who could help this person?

Plan how to keep customers happy

Every company needs happy customers if it hopes to keep selling its product or services. Even though meeting the needs of customers is at the heart of marketing, it's surprising how many small firms allow other priorities to get in the way of planning this vital part of the business. Even if a plan is formulated, it may end up gathering dust in a drawer or become out of date within weeks.

The answer is unlikely to be found in a text book or at a business school, since academic marketing plans tend to be a million miles from the reality of running a small firm. By contrast, The 'Customer Touchstone' (**www.customer-touchstone.com**) is a simple planning tool that provides a framework for small firms to create and maintain a marketing plan. The software can be downloaded free, and the site provides a series of guidelines and tools to help the uninitiated, with a minimum of marketing jargon.

Keep an eye on the big picture

Building a new business can become obsessive, making it difficult to stand back from the day-to-day detail and look at it objectively. The role of a non-executive director or mentor can therefore become crucial. Ideally, with years of business experience in a variety of senior roles, they are well equipped to offer constructive criticism and support. Sites such as **www.independentdirector.co.uk** and **www.nonexecdirector.co.uk** may be helpful.

Working with a personal coach may provide an alternative solution. If you want to find out what this is all about, visit the 'Coaching' section under 'Staff and Skills' on **www.yboanswers.co.uk**, where *Practical Internet* readers are invited to put their questions to a business coach once a month. Best of all – this service is free.

The Non-Executive Director site is well equipped to offer constructive criticism and advice

How we built Icecool.co.uk

WE ALL KNOW THAT DIAMONDS ARE A GIRL'S BEST FRIEND, BUT HOW DOES AN ONLINE JEWELLERY STORE CONVINCE CUSTOMERS TO GET THEIR ROCKS ON? **JAMES THORNTON** FINDS OUT

Once upon a time diamonds were strictly the preserve of royalty, film stars and gangsters' molls. The times they are a-changing though, and it seems that the British public are becoming increasingly prepared to shell out on a sparkling rock in order to complete their celebrity-style wardrobe.

With prices of the precious stones tumbling, it's becoming easier for people to get hold of jewellery. So why not create a site that allows fashion-savvy punters to buy gems online? Some might baulk at the thought of ensuring that jewel transactions are secure, and, more importantly, convincing customers of this. Not the team behind Icecool though, whose eyes lit up like the Pink Panther when their vision of an online diamond outlet was dreamed up four years ago.

"We wanted to make buying jewellery fun," explains Managing Director Mark Boston. "Our aim was to sell well-designed jewellery at affordable prices, whether for a specific occasion, a present or just for someone to treat themselves."

Nina Michaels, Icecool's Marketing Co-ordinator

The site was devised by a marketing team of three, with a trio of Web designers on hand to transform their ideas into a series of fresh and funky pages. Both the front-end and the back-end ordering systems were designed using Intershop's eCommerce package (**www.intershop.com**).

One of the issues the company first needed to address when the site went live was the problem of credit card fraud, as scamsters saw it as an opportunity to scab a booty of tasty gems using illicit methods such as entering false credit card information.

Boston recalls: "In the early days of e-tailing there was quite a lot of credit card fraud around and we found that we were the ones most at risk. In those days banks didn't offer the same kind of safeguards they do today, and as a result we wasted many man-hours checking details with the Post Office and directory enquiries to chase up people who'd entered fake card details."

Building up trust

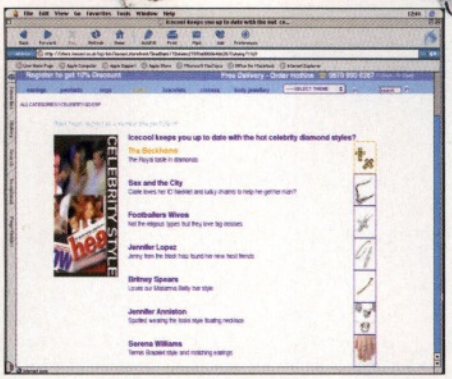
Of course, the other problem facing a company which handles expensive goods is that it needs to convince customers that their money is in safe hands and that the owners won't disappear without a trace.

"In the beginning people were worried about buying online," says Nina Michaels, Icecool's Marketing Co-ordinator. "Back then most customers ordered things from us via mail order or on the phone, but people's confidence in using the Net grew, and these days we rarely speak to them on the phone, as everything's done online."

Michaels believes that the tight security measures employed by sites such as Icecool have helped banish nasty myths about buying online, particularly among younger customers. The site has carried the Which? WebTrader logo on its pages and uses the NetBanks payment service, which handles credit card transactions securely, meaning Icecool doesn't see a single digit of any of its customers' card numbers.

A DIAMOND IS FOR EVERYWHERE
IF YOU WANT TO BARE ALL - FROM YOUR MIDRIFF TO YOUR TOES OR EVEN YOUR EYELASHES OUR RANGE OF GOLD AND DIAMOND BODY DIAMONDS WILL PUT YOU AT THE CENTRE OF ATTENTION
Chains and Dangles
Toe Rings Summer 2002
Beach Babes 2002

Boston believes that the world would be a happier place if everyone wore diamonds



Icecool has made a mint off the back of the nation's obsession with trying to emulate their favourite celebrity's style

According to the site's Managing Director, diamonds aren't just for girls, and the 'Men's Room' is very popular

Mark Boston, the Managing Director of Icecool, and a man keen to see every woman in the UK wearing diamonds

Diamonds are forever

Once you've got a whole gaggle of starry-eyed prospective customers ready to come to your site and spend a bit of cash on some jewels, the trick is to ensure that they hang around long enough to see exactly what you can do for them. Icecool has employed a number of tactics in order to achieve this.

One sure-fire way of keeping your visitors' attention is to make the site as easy to navigate as possible, which Icecool has done through the use of drop-down menus and themed sections such as 'party girl', 'really rich' and 'trilogy forever'.

"When you're on the Web you don't want to get confused or bored," Boston reveals. "Even if you come back from the pub from having had a few too many shandies you should be able to navigate a site without getting frustrated."

Another key ingredient in the successful design of a jewellery site, according to the diamond store's boss, is the use of product photography. The company uses one of the UK's leading jewellery photographers, Paul Hartley,to include an image of every item it stocks.

> **"WE WANT EVERY WOMAN IN THE COUNTRY TO BE WEARING OUR DIAMONDS"** MARK BOSTON

It's no coincidence that the design of the site is strikingly reminiscent of a women's glossy mag, and the company has profited from the celebrity-chic culture which is gripping Britain at the moment, particularly among young women. The site's 'Celebrity Gossip' section – touted by the likes of OK and Heat magazine – allows customers to purchase jewellery like the stars wear at a fraction of the cost.

"People like to have what celebrities have," explains Michaels. "Everyone wants the real thing, and thanks to David Beckham even men want to wear diamonds these days. We can offer this to them at a price which is easy on the pocket."

Banking on design

While men may be warming to the idea of wearing gems, it's fashion-conscious women who are Icecool's biggest customers, and as the summer gets into full swing, the popularity of body jewellery is growing. Other popular areas of the site include the pin badges sold to raise money for breast cancer, and the diamond competition, which is run for six months of the year in an effort to get people to hang around the site longer. The data generated from competition entries allows the company to track where its visitors are coming from and how often they're coming back to the site, which can help Icecool market itself more effectively.

While the site conducts minimal advertising itself, its customers have become a vital mouthpiece for the firm, which now benefits greatly as a result of recommendations from people who are asked: "Oooh, where did you get that?". However, getting people to buy on the site is only half the problem, and Mark Boston places equal importance on making sure people come back to buy again and again from Icecool.

"We strive as hard as possible to build up a hardcore of repeat customers," he explains. "If you don't have repeat customers, then effectively you're not in business."

Boston's ambitions stretch far beyond looking after a loyal band of regular customers, however, and he and the rest of the Icecool team dream of a country where everyone is draped in the finest jewels. He concludes: "We want every woman in the country to be wearing our diamonds and I truly believe that it would make the world a happier, more beautiful place." ■

Site stats

ICE COOL
www.icecool.co.uk

- **Who designed it?**
  In-house
- **Software used?**
  Intershop used for both front-end and back-end systems
- **Time taken?**
  A few months
- **How many people involved in the beginning?**
  Six
- **How many involved now?**
  Four
- **Delivery charges?**
  Free

TIME SCALE

April 1999
Icecool.co.uk is set up by experienced rough diamond brokers H Goldie & Co

May 2002
The site launches a limited edition Breast Cancer Care pin badge, which goes on to raise £12,000 for the charity

November 2002
Company launches an exclusive new range of personalised identity necklaces

December 2002
New line of products announced for Christmas, including toe rings, belly bars and horseshoe charms

February 2003
The heart-shaped Aimee pendant is launched in time for Valentine's day

Choose the right domain name for your company

IT'S ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT BUSINESS DECISIONS YOU'LL EVER MAKE – MAKE SURE YOU PICK A NAME THAT WORKS FOR YOU

Using the Internet as the primary route to building your business is dependent on brand recognition. You have to get the pound-spending customers onto your site before you can blind them with your Web site design and the goods and services on offer.

What you need then, is a good domain name: one that's short, concise, catchy and easily communicates who you are and what you do – a name that's instantly memorable. You know the type: B&Q's **www.diy.com** may not have the company name in it, but nobody is remotely confused as to what the site is about. And who could possibly be puzzled about the nature of the **friendsreunited.co.uk** site? **Cheapflights.co.uk** is another, and of course there are sites like **elephant.co.uk**. While you might not have initially related car insurance to this latter choice, the word 'elephant' is extremely memorable, especially when backed by the giant images used in TV advertising to hammer home the message. The ground rules are simple: great domain name equals more visitors, equals more sales (if your site delivers once customers get there!)

Getting a domain name is easy. Sign up with virtually any ISP and you'll get Web space, but its value is zilch if the name doesn't have the power to attract. Whether you go for .co.uk, .biz, .me, .com, .info or any of the expanding lists of suffixes, it is the top-level domain that will bring in the business.

But dare we suggest that the Internet is reaching at least one level of maturity and that maybe all the good names have gone? It's time to get your creative hat on. Choosing a good domain name is going to be one of the most important decisions you make, and needs due consideration. When you go online you're on a worldwide stage, and as your business grows the domain name needs to be capable of growing with you – representative of what you are today and what you hope to be tomorrow.

Price is not an issue – the deals are there to be had. Firenet is offering the traditional .co.uk, org.uk and ltd.uk suffixed names for £5.99 per year; namehogs starts at £7.50 per year, escalating to £65.00 per annum for those requiring .uk.net or .uk.com, and Simply.com is currently promoting a 50 per cent discount offer on new domain names, reducing registration

'B&Q' may not appear in the domain name, but we still know where to go for our DIY needs

down to as little as £2.89. In comparison to a few years ago, prices are low. Paul Coulson, managing director of Simply.com, explains: "Prices have fallen due to supply and demand – most companies now retail domains with very slim margins, as they are looking to attract customers into other higher value (hosting) product sales."

So, it's really a case of shopping around and marrying the services offered to your specific needs. But what if your site is hosted on a URL you've paid for separately from your Web space – are you in for a nightmare?

Jonathan Robinson, director of business development at NetNames, thinks not. "From a technical viewpoint there's no reason why a business should not purchase Web hosting and domain names from different suppliers. However, there are many advantages in choosing one provider for both, including cost efficiency and a single point of contact for support."

Whoever you choose to purchase your name from, carefully check out their terms and conditions: some charge release fees to move to another supplier. Lesley Cowley of Nominet offers a few further words of warning. "Make sure your agent registers the domain name in your name, not its own. This will make it easier to make any subsequent changes, even if they go into liquidation." It's also worth recording when the domain is due for renewal. Failure to do so could mean that you wake up one day and find out that your registration has expired and someone else is legitimately using it!

Pop along to FireNet's site for some good deals on domain names and hosting arrangements

Your chosen provider and registrar aside, the key issue remains that choice of top level domain. Where do you start? Cowley advises: "Be creative and flexible and think more widely than just your business or trading name." She also advocates the use of numbers and hyphens, which can provide a means of differentiation and access to preferences already taken. David Harrison, managing director of WSPS (Web Site Promotion Services) provides an example. "While 'www.mybusinessname.co.uk' might not be available, 'www.my-business-name.co.uk' might be."

The jury is out however, on the use of hyphens, not only because they might be difficult for consumers to enunciate but, as Harrison points out, "If the only difference between you and your competitors is a few hyphens, there could be confusion and you could lose potential customers to those with whom you are trying to compete." Common sense is required and the advice must be to buy as many different versions of your name as your budget allows, thereby protecting your brand, eg a company 'Just Chocolate' would register 'justchocolate.co.uk', 'just-chocolate.co.uk' and, if possible, the same version including the '.com' suffix.

"THE RULES ARE SIMPLE: GREAT DOMAIN NAME EQUALS MORE VISITORS EQUALS MORE SALES"

Worldwide domains

THE USE OF country name suffixes is worth considering, provided they are relevant. Ken Sorrie, CEO of domain name registrar Internetters, references just a few examples: "'.dj' represents Djibouti but could be used by a disc jockey; likewise '.tm' for Turkmenistan could be used for 'trademark', and '.ws', the suffix for Western Samoa can be used to represent 'Web site'."

If you consider going down this route, a comprehensive list of all the country suffixes can be found at **whois.iana.org**, but steer clear of broadly recognised suffixes like '.fr' for France or '.es' for Spain: you could wipe out a big chunk of potential customers who feel more confident sticking to British shores, and alienate the locals to whom the suffix is rightly attributable.

Nominet's Cowley advises that '.eu', billed as 'a hub for eCommerce throughout the European Union', will be with us soon. One to consider if your business is Europe-wide.

Clever use of numbers can also provide some flexibility, but only if used with caution, as Ken Sorrie, CEO of domain name registrar Internetters, explains: "'2' meaning 'to' and '4' meaning 'for' can have some appeal. However, if you have to give out your domain name verbally, then it is an extra effort to explain that it is 'horses4courses' rather than 'horsesforcourses', for instance."

The adoption of '.net' or the more recent additions, '.biz' and '.info', instead of '.co.uk' or '.com' further broaden your options and are not country-specific. And talking of countries, a quick browse through the list of country code suffixes could stimulate some ideas: '.fi', representing Finland could easily catch on as meaning 'financial institution'.

So you know your options: different suffixes, the use of hyphens or numbers, portraying what you do rather than who you are – where now? Essentially, a brainstorming session is required. You could visit an esteemed marketing agency and seek its very professional but equally costly advice. A second option could be to grab a bottle of wine, a thesaurus, a pad and your most inspirational friends or colleagues, and let your imaginations run wild.

Harrison advises thinking laterally: "Consumers are likely to type in the first thing that springs to mind. Thetrainline.com has taken off in a big way, yet 'trainline' isn't even a word – but people remember it."

David Soskin, CEO of **www.cheapflights.co.uk** offers a further, perhaps more pragmatic suggestion: "If you want a good domain name, ask people with good common sense – your granny or your small child for starters. Avoid the overpaid and out-of-touch marketing gurus who will charge you an arm and a leg to come up with something so weird and wonderful that no-one except Einstein could possibly remember it, let alone spell it." We couldn't agree more.

Can't decide on a domain name? Try typing in your ideal name at the 'nametwist' site, and it will give you loads of suggestions

Marcus Sen, director of Web design consultancy Peppercorn, also suggests visiting **NameTwist.com**. "Type in the name that you would ideally like and it will search and give you tons of suggestions!" He adds that while some might not be helpful at all, you may find one that will do the trick.

To check out whether your elected name is already registered and if it might be up for sale, visit **www.whois.org** and **www.nic.uk**. But be prepared to compromise. While the days of Sainsbury's spending £100,000+ for **www.taste.co.uk** are well and truly over, caution is still required. Don't bid for something that simply won't deliver just returns. And a final word of warning: the use of URLs is a legal minefield. It's worth a belt and braces check-up before you register. The alternative could be very costly in the long run.

Cheapflights
The No.1 guide to travel deals
My flight destination begins with . . . A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z
Cheap flights
Holidays
Short breaks
Hotels, cottages and villas
Holiday deals
Short breaks

The simple name at 'Cheapflights.co.uk' leaves you in no doubt as to what the site is all about

Once you've got the right one for you – it's your domain. The dictionary defines 'domain' as 'territory, district or space over which authority, jurisdiction or control is or may be exercised'. Use it wisely. ■

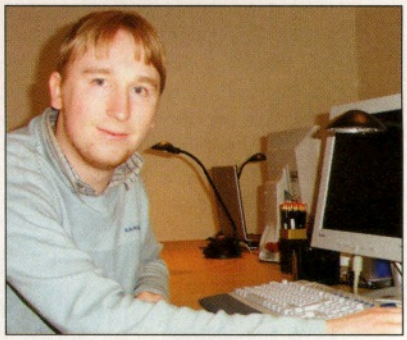
I got here first

REMEMBER THE MULTI-MILLION pound national launch of the Marbles Internet credit card by HFC Bank in 1999? Who would have believed that a bank of such stature didn't thoroughly check out the availability of the Marbles brand? Marlow-based PR agency, Marbles, is still suffering the ramifications of the launch, regularly receiving emails and telephone calls from consumers.

Realising its nightmare once the cat was out of the bag, HFC did propose purchasing the agency's domain, 'marbles.co.uk', but were dealing with a company that had developed a reputation over eight years and was Internet-savvy – having launched Netscape and Freeserve, to name but a few. HFC opted for the still available 'Marbles.com', hence the ongoing confusion that Sue Beard, joint Managing Director for the agency, describes as 'the bane of her life'. In this case, Marbles retained its domain, but has paid a price for it in ongoing business disruption. A little foresight by HFC could have saved a lot of trouble.

It's worth noting that Nominet offers its 'Dispute Resolution Service', a facility allowing you to complain if you believe you have greater rights to a .uk domain name than those who have registered it.

Expert advice



Barnaby Lashbrooke, Managing Director for SupaNames.com, offers the following advice for choosing a memorable and workable domain name.

1. Choose URLs that are either short or snappy, or use keywords related to the industry or business you are in.
2. Try looking under the '.info' and '.biz' domain extensions, as these often yield surprising and excellent results.
3. View spending a lot of money on a domain (eg purchasing an existing domain from a registrant) only as a last resort.
4. Domain companies range from budget providers to those promoting corporate registration services, charging more for what is effectively the same service. Choose a provider that offers the right level of support for you within your budget. Shop around!

Are you paying too much for Broadband?

Switch to PAYGoDSL and we could help you save money on your Broadband bill, month after month.

PAYGoDSL is an innovative ADSL service that gives you all the benefits of Broadband on a pay-as-you-go basis.

Visit **www.metronet.co.uk** to see how much you could save by switching to PAYGoDSL.

Better value Broadband

Web: http://www.metronet.co.uk/ **Tel:** 0870 284 0284

METRONET

In brief:
Task: Create an online database
Software I need: 4D 6.7
Difficulty: Medium
Time I need: An hour

Create an online database

MAKE WEB PUBLISHING A BREEZE BY GENERATING AN ONLINE NEWS DATABASE COURTESY OF YOUR FREE 4D SOFTWARE

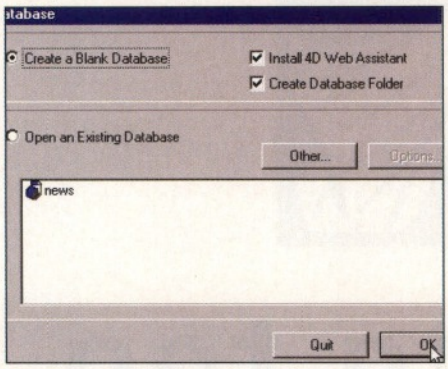
BUILDING AN ONLINE DATABASE is one of those tasks that makes most Web developers go a bit weak at the knees. The thought of spending hours entering data into a computer in the hope that it'll work on the Web is enough to make you want to visit your dentist's drill, because even that seems a lot more pleasant. It needn't be like this, however, and we've really pulled out all the stops with this month's cover disc full program, 4D.

This is a powerful database application and development tool that's specifically designed to publish databases as either standalone applications that can be installed on computers, or be published on the Web. A database is just a collection of info organised so that it can be used more efficiently. Examples are everyday items such as a dictionary, calendar or cookbook.

If you've never built a database before, don't worry, 4D makes the task as painless as possible. Within the short time that you complete this tutorial you'll be able to create your own custom database, entering your data and retrieving it. 4D also comes with its own built-in Web server. If you have any Web server software on your PC such as Apache or Windows Web Server, you'll need to stop this service before starting the 4D server application. Once we've shown you how to set the server up, you'll be able to view your database locally through a Web browser. This lets you fully test your content on your local computer before uploading it to a remote host.

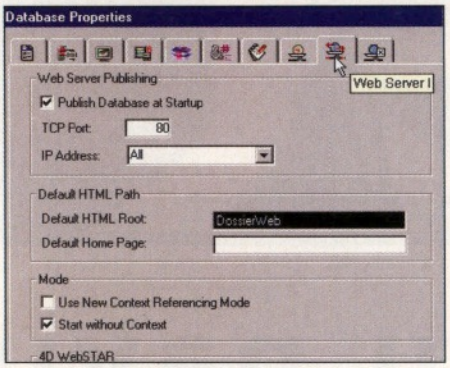
The database is built using the Design mode, as you plan and create how you want your data to be structured. When you're ready to enter data, switch to the User mode, as you are then using the database as opposed to building the structure.

The published Web content can be edited with the built-in HTML editor and the Appearance editor. Our guide to 4D below tells you more.



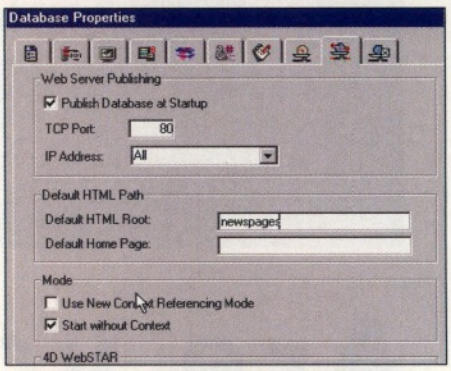
1 Launch 4D

After you've installed 4D from the cover CD, you'll be asked to insert the serial number. You will then be prompted to either open a database or create a new one. Create a new one and click on 'Install 4D Web assistant', then click 'OK'.



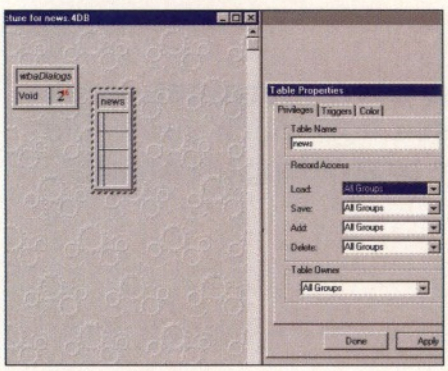
2 Database properties

You'll be asked where you want to save your database. Select a location and name the database 'News'. It will appear onscreen. Go to the File menu and choose 'Database Properties'. Click on the tab 'Web Server 1' to access the publishing server.



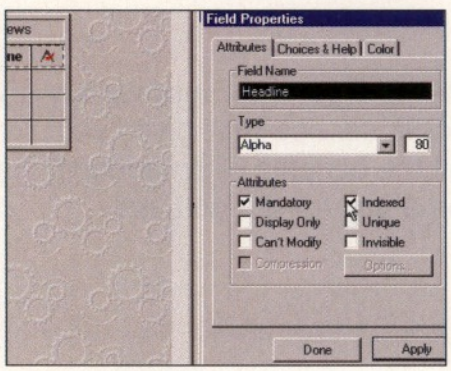
3 Change the HTML root

Change the default HTML root to 'newspages' and click 'OK'. Minimise 4D and create a new folder called 'Newspages' in the folder that was created where you saved your database. Now return to 4D. We are ready to assemble the database.



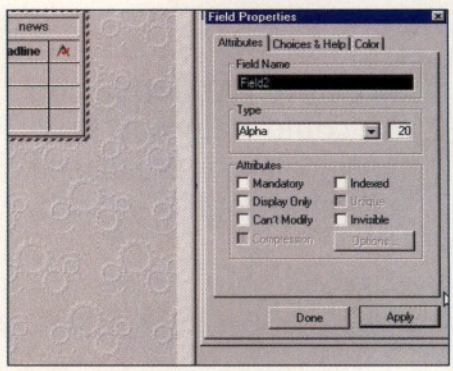
4 Create table

Close the Explorer window as we don't need it for now. Go to the Structure menu and choose 'New Table', naming it 'News'. The table appears in the Structure window with the Table Properties next to it. You can resize the Structure window if necessary.



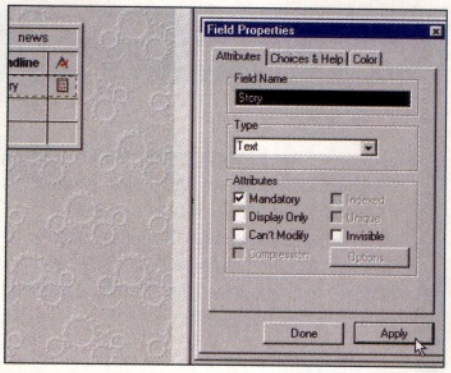
5 Add field

Select the 'News' table – there should be a dotted line moving around the edge. From the Structure menu choose 'New Field'. Rename the field 'Headline', keep it as an Alpha value with '80' as the character length, then click 'Mandatory' and 'Indexed'.



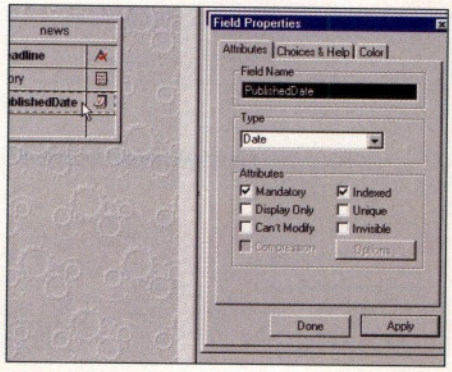
6 Field values

Making the field a mandatory field means this has to be filled to validate the entry into the database, and indexing fields means they'll be easy to search when entries have been added to the database. Click 'Apply' and you'll be taken to Field 2.



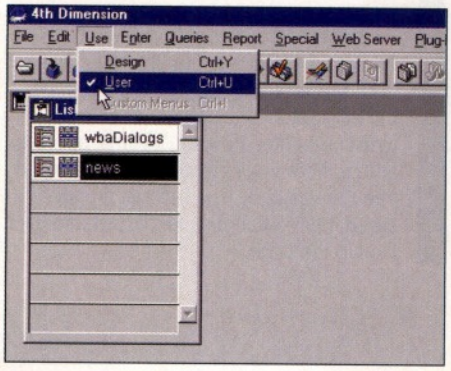
7 What's the story?

Rename Field 2 'Story' and change the type of field to a text field. The character length disappears so you can't enter a value and the indexed option is greyed out so it can't be selected. Click 'Mandatory' again so this field has to be filled in, then click 'Apply'.



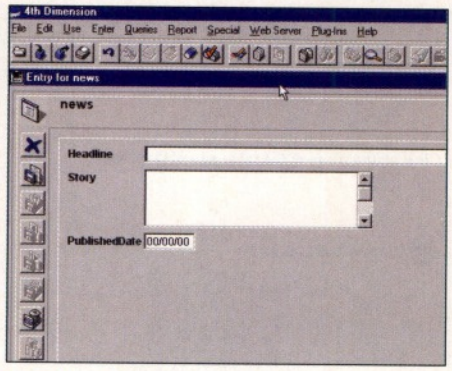
8 Blind date

In Field 3 change the name to 'PublishedDate' and change the type to 'Date'. This will only allow dates to be entered in this field. Select the Mandatory and Indexed attributes. This time select 'Done' as these are all the fields that we are going to create.



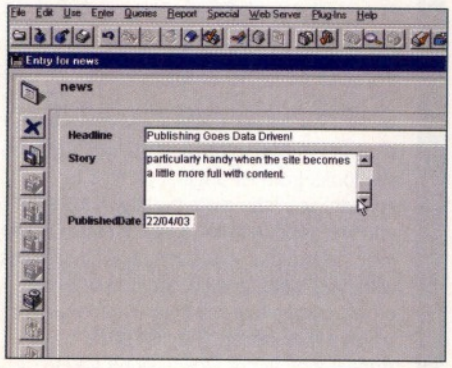
9 Database setup

Congratulations, you've finished setting up the database – but there's no data in it yet. Select the 'Use' menu and change from 'Design' to 'User' mode. As you can see, you go into Design mode to set up your database and User mode to, well... use it!



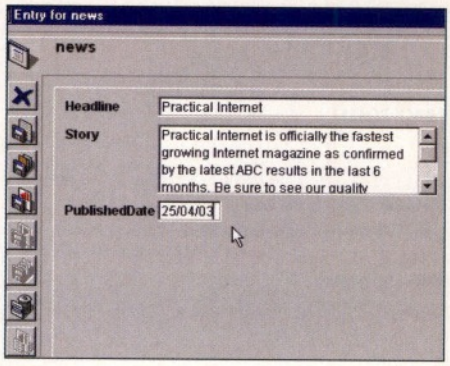
10 Add default form

As you move into User mode you'll be asked if you want to create default forms for the table; click 'Yes'. Now select 'News' in the list of tables that should be at the top left. Go to the 'Enter' menu and choose 'New Record'. The entry screen will appear.


File Edit Use Enter Queries Report Special Web Server Plug-Ins Help
Entry for news
news
Headline
Publishing Goes Data Driven!
Story
particularly handy when the site becomes a little more full with content.
PublishedDate 22/04/03

11 Add a news story

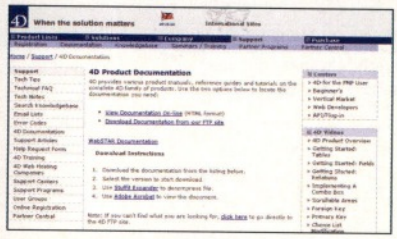
Now we're going to fill in information that will go into our database. Make up a headline and story to go into the relevant boxes and fill in a published date. Maybe set this to about a week ago, so we can give some other stories different dates.


Entry for news
news
Headline
Practical Internet
Story
Practical Internet is officially the fastest growing Internet magazine as confirmed by the latest ABC results in the last 6 months. Be sure to see our quality
PublishedDate 25/04/03

12 More entries

We need to add several more entries to the database. Click on the 'Disk' icon just under the large X icon which is the Accept button. You can then enter another record into the database. Add two more entries so that there are three entries in total.

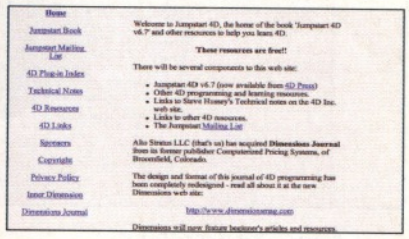
Web resources



4th Dimension

www.4duk.com/support/documentation.html

The official 4D Web site has many downloads to help you understand and build databases, together with PDF files and sample databases to get you moving in the right direction. There is even detailed information on the Web server that comes with 4D. The documentation is all available online in HTML format or can be downloaded from the FTP site. This site is a must for any Web database developer.


Welcome to Jumpstart 4D, the home of the book 'Jumpstart 4D v6.7' and other resources to help you learn 4D.
These resources are free!

Jumpstart 4D

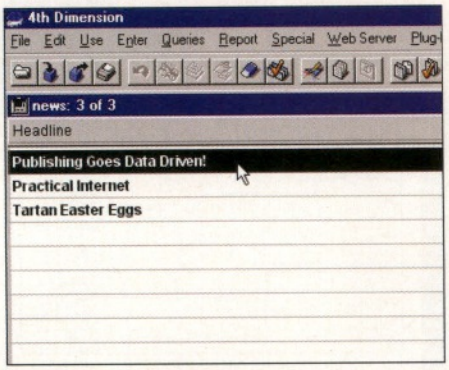
www.jumpstart-4d.com

This is a book that is printed by 4D Press, but it's also available as a free download. The idea behind the book is to get you on your way as soon as possible with the 4D software. You can choose to buy the book, or if you like freebies (and everybody does), just download the entire book as a PDF.

Yell.com

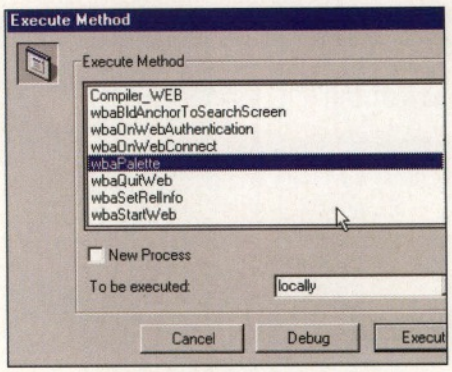
www.yell.com

If you're just starting out in the world of databases, why not check out one of the biggest and best around. The Yellow Pages site contains literally millions of details, and it's all stored on one massive database.



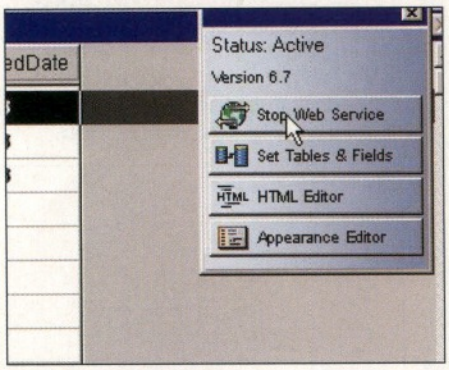
13 Records entered

Be sure to make each entry have a different published date. When you've entered two more records, click 'Cancel' (the large cross) when prompted to add another record. You'll be taken to a screen showing an overview of your records.



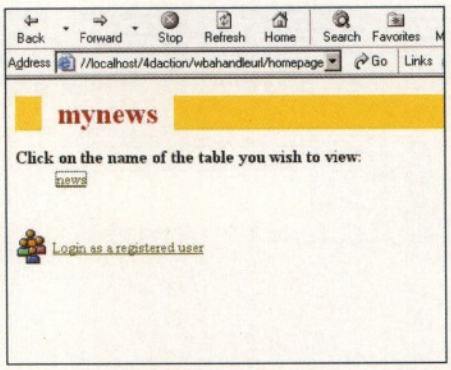
14 Choose your execution

As we have our records entered, we can start the Web server that comes with 4D to serve our data online. Go to the Special menu and choose 'Execute Method'. In the dialog window choose 'wbaPalette' and ensure that it is to be executed locally.



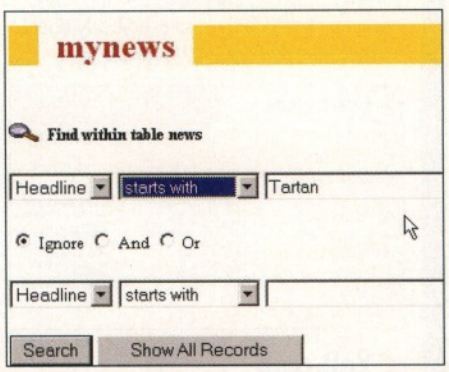
15 Start the server

Click the 'Execute' button (don't worry, your hard drive won't fry!). A small floating palette will pop up in the top right-hand corner of the screen. Click on the 'Start Web Service' button. This will allow us to serve pages to ourselves locally.



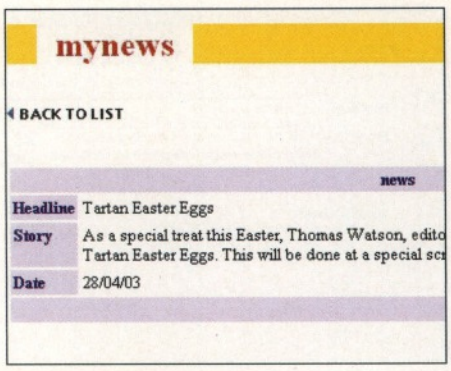
16 Launch your browser

Start your favourite Web browser and click in the address bar and type 'http://localhost' then press 'RETURN'. You are connecting locally to your own computer via HTTP. This allows the database to be served to yourself with the dynamic content.



17 Get to the news

Click on the news link and you'll be taken to a search page. Here you can search for your page by category and enter the name your headline starts with, then click 'Search'. Or, as we don't have many records, you could just click 'Show All Records'.



18 Read the data

Now you can see the results of your search or all records. Click on one of those, and you'll be taken to the Web page that was created dynamically from the database. You've completed your first data-driven Web site, all thanks to the power of 4D.

Jargon buster

Table

Tables are the areas that store information. A database can have several tables. Databases with one table are known as 'flat file' databases. Databases with multiple tables can have relationships between different fields in the tables and are therefore known as 'relational' databases.

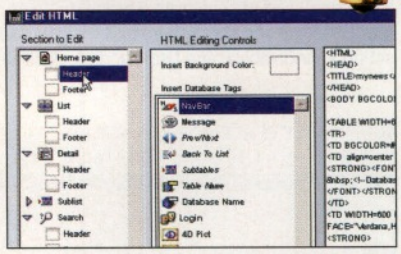
Field

Each table contains fields. A field is set up to contain a particular piece of information. A telephone directory database has a field that contains the name, a field for the address and a third field for the telephone number. By organising the data it becomes easier to search for a particular piece of information.

Record

Each entry of information into the database is known as a 'record'. So if we continue the example of a telephone directory – when you enter a person's name, address and number you have entered one record into the database. The records are the saved information that you've put into each field in the table.

Power users' tip



IT IS POSSIBLE to change the way the Web site looks from its original colours to something a little more creative. However, you will need to know a little HTML. On the Web palette that you start the Web services with, you'll notice there are one or two other options that will help you format the pages a little better. The first is the Appearance editor which allows you to change colours and fonts on each of the pages. Then there is the HTML code you could specify different fonts or colours.

the devil is in the details...

SalesOutlook CRM

Expand Microsoft Outlook and Exchange into a powerful, flexible, and customisable Customer Relationship Management (CRM) Workflow solution.

Imagine deploying a cost-effective CRM tool that everyone likes and already knows how to use. Imagine giving your people a tool that will make them more effective and more productive. Imagine lowering your costs while simplifying your life at the same time. That's what you can expect when you implement SalesOutlook.

Based on DataGate's out-sourced Exchange 2000 hosting service, SalesOutlook is the practical choice to improve productivity and to build stronger, more fruitful relationships through better management of marketing, sales, and service processes.

Our high-availability Enterprise Exchange 2000 servers with SalesOutlook CRM are managed by us and made available to you on a per-user basis. We provide the hardware, software, anti-virus, firewall, updates, administration and user support. To take advantage of this service, all you need is an Internet connection and Microsoft Outlook or a Web browser.

Microsoft CERTIFIED Partner

- 99.99% network uptime
- On-line Control Panel
- Real 24.7 Support & 24.7 Server Monitoring
- Managed Service options
- Premium Data Centre hosting
- Professional Intel® ISP hardware

Dedicated Servers

Control, resources and flexibility, delivered on premium Intel hardware with manageable monthly costs and scalability.

Virtual Private Servers

A revolutionary new hosting platform with benefits of a Dedicated Server at a fraction of the price.

Microsoft Exchange 2000

Internet-hosted Microsoft Exchange® 2000 opens up a new world of corporate communication and collaboration.

Shared Business Hosting

Shared Business Hosting solutions configurable to your exact requirements. Affordable hosting with quality support.

E-Commerce Builder

Website, database-driven Shopping Cart, integrated with Web-Merchant payment solution and PC Payment Terminal.

Freephone 08000 19 98 19

Order now and get ...

FREE setup & 1 FREE month on Dedicated Servers*
FREE setup & 2 FREE months on Virtual Private Servers*

www.datagate.co.uk

DataGate Ltd. Unit 4, Media Village, Walpole Court, Ealing Green, London W5 5ED
phone: 08700 11 90 90, fax 08700 11 90 80, email: office@datagate.co.uk

DATAGATE

* On annual advance payments. Prices exclude VAT. ** Monthly equivalent for annual payments in advance.
All trademarks and registered trademarks acknowledged.

SPONSORED BY
WebFusion®
seriously easy web hosting
Call: 0870 333 0096

Pick the perfect Web hosting deal

USE THIS AT-A-GLANCE GUIDE TO SELECT THE PERFECT HOME FOR YOUR BUSINESS OR ECOMMERCE WEB SITE

SELECTING A WEB hosting company to look after your business is just as tricky as picking the right ISP to connect you to the Internet. There's a baffling array of deals to choose from, each offering slightly different services and each charging slightly different prices. In short, there's no simple answer.

Our aim in compiling this guide is to allow you to see the different types of packages available and help you glean some idea of the costs you're likely to face. While we haven't included every single deal offered by the firms included (we could probably fill the whole of YBO with them) we have listed the products that we think are most relevant to our readers.

To use these listings effectively we recommend using the information below to pick out a handful of firms that cater for your needs. The next step is to contact each directly to discuss your requirements further.

Keeping up to date

WHILE WE TRY and ensure that all the information in our listings is up to date, the occasional error does creep through. If you would like to update your current details, drop an email to **pi@paragon.co.uk** with the information you would like changed.

NAME	URL	Package	Phone	Cost	Web space	POP3 Accounts	FrontPage Extensions	Phone Support
1&1 Internet	www.oneandone.co.uk	Starters	0845 6012 586	£17.88	Yes	15	No	Yes
1&1 Internet	www.oneandone.co.uk	Home	0845 6012 586	£59.88	100Mb	50	No	Yes
1&1 Internet	www.oneandone.co.uk	Business	0845 6012 586	£107.88	300Mb	200	Yes	Yes
1&1 Internet	www.oneandone.co.uk	Professionals	0845 6012 586	£203.88	800Mb	500	Yes	Yes
1&1 Internet	www.oneandone.co.uk	Starters	0845 6012 586	£17.88	Yes	15	No	Yes
1&1 Internet	www.oneandone.co.uk	Home	0845 6012 586	£59.88	100Mb	50	No	Yes
1&1 Internet	www.oneandone.co.uk	Business	0845 6012 586	£107.88	300Mb	200	Yes	Yes
1&1 Internet	www.oneandone.co.uk	Professionals	0845 6012 586	£203.88	800Mb	500	Yes	Yes
123-reg	www.123-reg.co.uk	Regular	0900 22 11 123	£45.87	250Mb	10	Yes	Yes
123-reg	www.123-reg.co.uk	Xtra	0900 22 11123	£69.87	500Mb	25	Yes	Yes
2020Media	www.2020media.com	Standard	0870 739 2020	£100.00	100Mb	15	Yes	Yes
2020Media	www.2020media.com	PHP	0870 739 2020	£150.00	100Mb	15	No	Yes
2020Media	www.2020media.com	Cold Fusion	0870 739 2020	£250.00	100Mb	15	No	Yes
2020Media	www.2020media.com	Java	0870 739 2020	£300.00	100Mb	15	No	Yes
4d Hosting	www.4dhosting.com	Bronze	0845 1668386	£20	10Mb	2	Yes	No
4d Hosting	www.4dhosting.com	Silver	0845 1668386	£64.99	25Mb	10	Yes	Yes
4d Hosting	www.4dhosting.com	Bronze	0845 1668386	£79.99	50Mb	20	Yes	Yes
9NetAvenue	www.9netave.uk.net	9Net ONE Plan	0800 328 9450	£239.40	25Mb	10	No	Yes
9NetAvenue	www.9netave.uk.net	Starter	0800 328 9450	£99	50Mb	10	Yes	Yes
9NetAvenue	www.9netave.uk.net	Professional	0800 328 9450	£199	100Mb	25	Yes	Yes
9NetAvenue	www.9netave.uk.net	Corporate	0800 328 9450	£399	500Mb	100	Yes	Yes
Active ISP	www.activeisp.co.uk	Small Business	0870 7304000	£143.40	35Mb	10	Yes	Yes
AMEN hosting	www.amen.uk.com	promo WebPRO	None	£6	100Mb	10	Yes	No
AMEN hosting	www.amen.uk.com	regular WebPRO	None	£54	100Mb	10	Yes	No
AQ Limited	www.a-q.co.uk	10Mb	08707 449227	£70.00	10Mb	1	No	No
AQ Limited	www.a-q.co.uk	20Mb	08707 449227	£122.00	20Mb	5	No	No
AQ Limited	www.a-q.co.uk	50Mb	08707 449227	£190.00	50Mb	5	No	No
A Web Company	www.awebcompany.net	5Mb Webspace	020 8399 6675	£39.99	5Mb	1	No	No
A Web Company	www.awebcompany.net	10Mb Webspace	020 8399 6675	£59.99	10Mb	3	No	No
A Web Company	www.awebcompany.net	25Mb Webspace	020 8399 6675	£99.99	25Mb	5	No	No
A Web Company	www.awebcompany.net	50Mb Webspace	020 8399 6675	£149.99	50MB	7	No	No
A Web Company	www.awebcompany.net	100Mb Webspace	020 8399 6675	£199.99	100Mb	10	No	Yes
A Web Company	www.awebcompany.net	250Mb Web space	020 8399 6675	£349.99	250Mb	15	No	Yes
A Web Company	www.awebcompany.net	500Mb Webspace	020 8399 6675	£499.99	500Mb	20	No	Yes
Business Serve	www.businessserve.co.uk	Business Serve Pro	08707 555565	£99.95	25Mb	5	Yes	Yes
Business Serve	www.businessserve.co.uk	Business Serve Premier	08707 555565	£199.95	50Mb	10	Yes	Yes
Business Serve	www.businessserve.co.uk	Business Serve Enterprise	08707 555565	£349.95	100Mb	20	Yes	Yes
Business Serve	www.businessserve.co.uk	Business Serve Enterprise NT	08707 555565	£399.95	100Mb	20	Yes	Yes
Clara.net	www.clara.net	clarahost Light	0845 355 1000	£29.99	10Mb	10	No	No
Clara.net	www.clara.net	clarahost Starter	0845 355 1000	£59.99	50Mb	20	Yes	No
Clara.net	www.clara.net	clarahost Soho	0845 355 1000	£99.00	100Mb	50	Yes	Yes
Clara.net	www.clara.net	clarahost Enterprise	0845 355 1000	£199.00	200Mb	100	Yes	Yes
Clara.net	www.clara.net	clarahost Professional	0845 355 1000	£399.00	500Mb	200	Yes	Yes
Clara.net	www.clara.net	clarahost Advanced	0845 355 1000	£699.00	500Mb	200	Yes	Yes
Don Host	www.donhost.co.uk	Enterprise Plan	0870 7414151	£89.99	100Mb	20	Yes	Yes
Don Host	www.donhost.co.uk	Commerce Plan	0870 7414151	£179.99	250Mb	50	Yes	Yes
Bargain Host	www.bargainhost.co.uk	Budget Host	None	£12.99	35Mb	1	No	No
Bargain Host	www.bargainhost.co.uk	Budget Host Pro	None	£22.99	50Mb	Unlimited	Yes	No
Fast Hosts	www.fasthosts.co.uk	Home User	01452 541260	£60.00	200Mb	Unlimited	Yes	Yes
Fast Hosts	www.fasthosts.co.uk	Business User	01452 541260	£199.00	200Mb	Unlimited	Yes	Yes
Freezone	www.freezone.co.uk	Freezone Value	0845 1170366	£71.40	30Mb	1	Yes	Yes
Freezone	www.freezone.co.uk	Freezone Classic Unix	0845 1170366	£119.40	50Mb	10	Yes	Yes
Freezone	www.freezone.co.uk	Freezone Classic NT	0845 1170366	£119.40	50Mb	10	Yes	Yes
Ghoulnet	www.ghoulnet.co.uk	Business Web	0800 0747581	£69.00	100Mb	50	Yes	No
Gio Internet	www.giointernet.com	Bronze Hosting	0870 922 4000	£70.50	50Mb	5	£50/year	Yes
Gio Internet	www.giointernet.com	Silver Hosting	0870 922 4000	£264.38	100Mb	10	£50/year	Yes
Gio Internet	www.giointernet.com	Gold Hosting	0870 922 4000	£346.63	250Mb	50	£50/year	Yes
Griffin Internet	www.griffin.net.uk	Windows 2000 Webspace	0870 0007100	£199	150Mb	100	Yes	Yes
Hostway	www.hostway-uk.com	Professional	0800 1801880	£89.00	200Mb	20	Yes	Yes
Hostway	www.hostway-uk.com	Business	0800 1801880	£179.00	400Mb	40	Yes	Yes

- FREE and UNLIMITED Telephone and E-mail Support
- Setup in an hour
- MyServerWorld™ 10.0
- 30 day money back guarantee

www.webfusion.co.uk

NAME	URL	Package	Phone	Cost	Web space	POP3 Accounts	FrontPage Extensions	Phone Support
Inweb Networks	www.inweb.co.uk	Unix Business Package + Free DialUp	08000 612 222	£200.00 pa	100MB	One	Yes	Yes
Inweb Networks	www.inweb.co.uk	NT Business Package + Free Dial Up	08000 612 222	£400 pa	50MB	One	Yes	Yes
Iomart	www.iomart.com	NT Core Hosting 30	0870 0500303	£179.88	30Mb	10	Yes	Yes
Iomart	www.iomart.com	NT Core Hosting 50	0870 0500303	£239.88	50Mb	10	Yes	Yes
Iomart	www.iomart.com	NT Core Hosting 75	0870 0500303	£359.88	75Mb	10	Yes	Yes
Iomart	www.iomart.com	NT Core Hosting 100	0870 0500303	£1199.88	100Mb	10	Yes	Yes
Joshua Internet	www.joshuainternet.com	Starter	None	£46.41	35Mb	10	Yes	No
Joshua Internet	www.joshuainternet.com	Standard	None	£92.82	80Mb	25	Yes	No
Joshua Internet	www.joshuainternet.com	Professional	None	£185.64	200Mb	60	Yes	No
KCDnet	www.kcdnet.com	Personal	None	£29.99	50Mb	1	Yes	No
KCDnet	www.kcdnet.com	Advanced	None	£89.99	100Mb	4	Yes	No
KCDnet	www.kcdnet.com	Executive	None	£159.99	200Mb	10	Yes	No
Magic Moments	www.magic-moments.com	Magic Entry	0115 9170000	£99.95	250MB	1	No	Yes
Magic Moments	www.magic-moments.com	Magic Pro	0115 9170000	£199.95	750Mb	100	Yes	Yes
Magic Moments	www.magic-moments.com	Magic Business	0115 9170000	£199	250Mb	100	Yes	Yes
Magic Moments	www.magic-moments.com	Magic Business eCommerce	0115 9170000	£499	250Mb	100	Yes	Yes
Mailbox	www.mailbox.net.uk	WebStandard	0845 177345	£100	25Mb	0	Yes	Yes
Mailbox	www.mailbox.net.uk	WebGold	0845 177345	£200	50Mb	15	Yes	Yes
Mailbox	www.mailbox.net.uk	WebPro	0845 177345	£300	25Mb	25	Yes	Yes
Mailbox	www.mailbox.net.uk	WebSecure	0845 177345	£250	25Mb	0	Yes	Yes
Metronet	www.metronet.co.uk	Toe in the water	020 8426 4446	£49.00	None	None	Yes	Yes
Metronet	www.metronet.co.uk	Going for a paddle	020 8426 4446	£139.00	10Mb	5	Yes	Yes
Metronet	www.metronet.co.uk	Dive, dive, dive	020 8426 4446	£287.00	10Mb	5	Yes	Yes
Namehog	www.namehog.net	Small Business	0870 9059444	£42.00	100Mb	20	Yes	Yes
Namehog	www.namehog.net	Business Pro	0870 9059444	£60.00	200Mb	25	Yes	Yes
NetBenefit	www.netbenefit.com	Shared Hosting Package	0800 0724696	£180.00	100Mb	None	Yes	Yes
Netcetera	www.inetc.net	Homeuser	0800 2987214	£60.00	100Mb	Unlimited	Yes	Yes
Netcetera	www.inetc.net	Commerce	0800 2987214	£180.00	200Mb	Unlimited	Yes	Yes
Netcetera	www.inetc.net	Reseller	0800 2987214	£450.00	Unlimited	Unlimited	Yes	Yes
NetNation	www.netnation.co.uk	Starter	0800 0283639	£131.40	20Mb	1	Yes	No
NetNation	www.netnation.co.uk	Pro	0800 0283639	£191.40	150Mb	20	Yes	No
NetNation	www.netnation.co.uk	Power	0800 0283639	£419.40	300Mb	40	Yes	No
Netway	www.netway.co.uk	Small to medium business	07020 939842	£199.00	20Mb	1	Yes	Yes
Oscura Ltd	www.oscura.co.uk	Business Development Hosting	0118 959 7200	£150	25Mb	6	Yes	Yes
Oscura Ltd	www.oscura.co.uk	Business Premium Hosting	0118 959 7200	£350	100MB	6	Yes	Yes
PMHIS.Net	www.pmhis.net	Web+	None	£60.00	Unlimited	Unlimited	Yes	No
Positive Internet Co	www.positive-internet.com	Shared Hosting	0800 316006	£250.00	120Mb	Unlimited	Yes	Yes
Powas Park	www.powaspark.net	Valuespace	0870 7303170	£49.99	100Mb	50	No	Yes
Powas Park	www.powaspark.net	Optisapce	0870 7303170	£99.99	IGb	Unlimited	Yes	Yes
Powas Park	www.powaspark.net	Commercespace	0870 7303170	£199.99	Unlimited	Unlimited	Yes	Yes
Saffas	www.saffas.com	WS10	0781 628 2991	£10	10Mb	10	Yes	Yes
Saffas	www.saffas.com	WS50	0781 628 2991	£40	50Mb	50	Yes	Yes
Saffas	www.saffas.com	WS100	0781 628 2991	£70	100Mb	100	Yes	Yes
Seiretto	seiretto.com	Starter	N/A	£49	15Mb	1	Yes	Yes
Seiretto	seiretto.com	Starter	N/A	£149	300Mb	20	Yes	Yes
Simply.Com	www.simply.com	Simply Basic	01684 893020	£49.99	10Mb	0	No	No
Simply.Com	www.simply.com	Simply Soho	01684 893020	£69.99	50Mb	1	Yes	No
Simply.Com	www.simply.com	Simply Enterprise	01684 893020	£99.99	100Mb	10	Yes	No
Simply.Com	www.simply.com	Simply Corporate	01684 893020	£149.99	200Mb	20	Yes	No
Shared Knowledge	www.sharedknowledge.net	Entry	01707 885800	£99.99	40Mb	Unlimited	Yes	No
Shared Knowledge	www.sharedknowledge.net	Personal	01707 885800	£99.99	80Mb	Unlimited	Yes	No
Shared Knowledge	www.sharedknowledge.net	Small Business	01707 885800	£249.99	200Mb	Unlimited	Yes	Yes
Shared Knowledge	www.sharedknowledge.net	Net Business	01707 885800	£399.99	400Mb	Unlimited	Yes	Yes
Shared Knowledge	www.sharedknowledge.net	Executive	01707 885800	£499.99	400Mb	Unlimited	Yes	Yes
Shared Knowledge	www.sharedknowledge.net	Executive E-Commerce	01707 885800	£799.99	600Mb	Unlimited	Yes	Yes
Sonnet	www.sonnet.co.uk	Solo Lite 24/7	N/A	£180	25Mb	25	Yes	Yes
Sonnet	www.sonnet.co.uk	Dial4Business	N/A	£120	50Mb	25	Yes	Yes
Sonnet	www.sonnet.co.uk	Solo Daytime	N/A	£180	50Mb	50	Yes	Yes
Sonnet	www.sonnet.co.uk	Solo 24/7	N/A	£300	50Mb	50	Yes	Yes
Sonnet	www.sonnet.co.uk	Symphony	N/A	£660	100Mb	50	Yes	Yes
Strongnet	www.strongnet.co.uk	Various	01703 866006	Various	50Mb	Unlimited	Unlimited	No
Supanames	www.supanames.co.uk	Value Host	0870 1257678	£13.99	35Mb	1	No	Yes
Supanames	www.supanames.co.uk	Value Host Pro	0870 1257678	£23.99	35Mb	Unlimited	Yes	Yes
Tigress UK	www.tigress-uk.com	Web50	0870 321 9528	£69.99	50Mb	3	No	Yes
UK Hosting	www.ukhosting.co.uk	5 megs	0845 082 0696	£55.00	20Mb	1	Yes	Yes
UK Hosting	www.ukhosting.co.uk	10 megs	0845 082 0696	£95.00	20Mb	1	Yes	Yes
UK Hosting	www.ukhosting.co.uk	20 megs	0845 082 0696	£125.00	20Mb	1	Yes	Yes
ValueWebHosts	www.valuewebhosts.com	Plan 1	n/a	£8.99	Unlimited	Unlimited	Yes	No
Verio	www.verio.co.uk	Starter	020 7767 3700	£109.45	10Mb	2	Yes	Yes
Verio	www.verio.co.uk	Designer	020 7767 3700	£197.45	50Mb	20	Yes	Yes
Verio	www.verio.co.uk	Business	020 7767 3700	£274.45	125Mb	40	Yes	Yes
Verio	www.verio.co.uk	Commerce	020 7767 3700	£384.45	175Mb	60	Yes	Yes
Virtual Internet	www.vi.net	Host	0800 11 77 44	£120	25Mb	12	Yes	Yes
Virtual Internet	www.vi.net	Business	0800 11 77 44	£215	50Mb	30	Yes	Yes
Virtual Internet	www.vi.net	Professional	0800 11 77 44	£480	250Mb	120	Yes	Yes
Virtual Internet	www.vi.net	Professional Plus	0800 11 77 44	£1980	250Mb	120	Yes	Yes
Web Fusion	www.webfusion.co.uk	WebFusion Entry	0115 917 0000	£99.95	250Mb	1	No	Yes
Web Fusion	www.webfusion.co.uk	WebFusion Pro	0115 917 0000	£199.95	750Mb	100	Yes	Yes
Web Fusion	www.webfusion.co.uk	WebFusion Business Pro	0115 917 0000	£199.00	250Mb	100	Yes	Yes
Web Fusion	www.webfusion.co.uk	WebFusion Business E-Commerce	0115 917 0000	£499.00	250Mb	100	Yes	Yes
Web Tapestry	www.webtapestry.co.uk	Basic Hosting	0800 0151718	£35.00	10Mb	1	Yes	Yes
Web Tapestry	www.webtapestry.co.uk	Economy Hosting	0800 0151718	£50.00	25Mb	2	Yes	Yes
Web Tapestry	www.webtapestry.co.uk	Senior Hostings	0800 0151718	£125.00	50Mb	5	Yes	Yes
Web Tapestry	www.webtapestry.co.uk	Executive Hostings	0800 0151718	£200.00	100Mb	10	Yes	Yes
Web Warehouse	www.web-warehouse.net	Entry	0845 126 0325	£40.00	25Mb	5	Yes	Yes
Web Warehouse	www.web-warehouse.net	Professional	0845 126 0325	£59.99	50	25	Yes	Yes
Web Warehouse	www.web-warehouse.net	Entry	0845 126 0325	£40.00	200Mb	100	Yes	Yes
Xsession	www.xsession.com	Personal Hosting	01784 460896	£39.00	25Mb	20	Yes	No
Xsession	www.xsession.com	Business Hosting	01784 460896	£94.00	200Mb	100	Yes	No
Xsession	www.xsession.com	Premium Hosting	01784 460896	£350.00	500Mb	350	Yes	No
Zebra Hosts.net	www.zebrahosts.net	Package 1	0845 4584200	£50.00	5Mb	0	No	No
Zebra Hosts.net	www.zebrahosts.net	Package 2	0845 4584200	£100.00	25Mb	0	Yes	No
Zebra Hosts.net	www.zebrahosts.net	Package 3	0845 4584200	£175.00	50Mb	1	Yes	No
Zebra Hosts.net	www.zebrahosts.net	Package 4	0845 4584200	£500.00	100Mb	5	Yes	Yes
Zen Internet	www.zenwebhosting.com	RaQ 4i 128	0870 6000971	£1,140	20Gb	Unlimited	Yes	Yes
Zen Internet	www.zenwebhosting.com	RaQ 4i 256	0870 6000971	£1,740	20Gb	Unlimited	Yes	Yes
Zen Internet	www.zenwebhosting.com	RaQ 4i 512	0870 6000971	£2,340	40Gb	Unlimited	Yes	Yes
Zen Internet	www.zenwebhosting.com	RaQ4r 256	0870 6000971	£2,3400	20Gb	Unlimited	Yes	Yes
Zen Internet	www.zenwebhosting.com	RaQ 4r 512	0870 6000971	£2,940	40Gb	Unlimited	Yes	Yes
Zen Internet	www.zenwebhosting.com	RaQ XTR 128	0870 6000971	£3,540	30Gb Unlimited	Yes	Yes	Yes
Zen Internet	www.zenwebhosting.com	RaQ XTR 1Gb	0870 6000971	£4,740	80Gb	Unlimited	Yes	Yes
ZyWeb Business	www.zyweb.com	ZyWeb Business	01392 209500	£210.00	30Mb	10	No	No

BT

The broadband package that gives you loads more, gives you more off.

Not only is BT Openworld Broadband up to ten times faster than a standard internet connection, it also gives you free e-mail, with spam and virus protection and 50Mb of webspace.

Order now to save £100 with free line activation and our special modem offer (by 30th June).

Call 0800 328 6666

Order online and save an extra £10.

www.btopenworld.com/broadband

£100 SAVING: HOME 500 PLUG & GO ONLY. LINE ACTIVATION NOW FREE (WAS £65), £50 MODEM OFFER EXTENDED UNTIL 30/06/03 (WAS £85). ACTIVATION BY 31/07/03. **£10 OFF ONLINE** ORDERS PLACED 01/04/03-30/06/03. EXCLUDES HOME 500 PLUG & GO - LINE ONLY. EXCLUDES RECONNECTION. RENTAL £29.99 A MONTH, MINIMUM 12 MONTHS, BT LINE REQUIRED. SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY AND SURVEY AND LINE TESTING. OTHER CONDITIONS APPLY.

Reviews

YOUR ESSENTIAL GUIDE TO ALL THE LATEST INTERNET SOFTWARE AND HARDWARE

Welcome...

DOESN'T IT SEEM as though everyone rushes around these days? People want to eat, drink, talk and work on the move, and it's left the *PI* offices wondering why we all don't slow down. Well, fat chance, because this month we go wireless nuts.

You might then take time out of your hectic schedule and view your latest site with Vodafone's Mobile Connect Card. Bringing you remote Net content and communications, this notebook modem is put through its paces, while on-the-fly digital imaging is covered with Logitech's Quickcam Cordless. All you globe-trotters can be reminded what the family looks like with Jasc's new Paint Shop Photo Album 4, or distribute your snapshot misdemeanors on Iomega's dinky 128Mb USB Mini Drive. Enjoy!

Mark Billen, Staff Writer

On test this issue...

112 **FrontPage 2003 Beta 2**
We road test the beta version of Microsoft's WYSIWYG monster

116 **Vodafone Mobile Connect**
We test this laptop Net device, and get impressed at its mobility

117 **Paint Shop Photo Album 4**
Organise and fix your photos with Paint Shop Pro's little brother

119 **Logitech QuickCam Cordless**
Film as you walk around your house with Logitech's wireless cam

120 **AOL 8.0**
We ask if the ISP giant's new browser matches up to its rivals

122 **Iomega Mini 128Mb**
Has Iomega came up with the world's first worthwhile keyring?

122 **Microsoft Plus! Digital Media**
Power up Windows XP with this assortment of media goodies

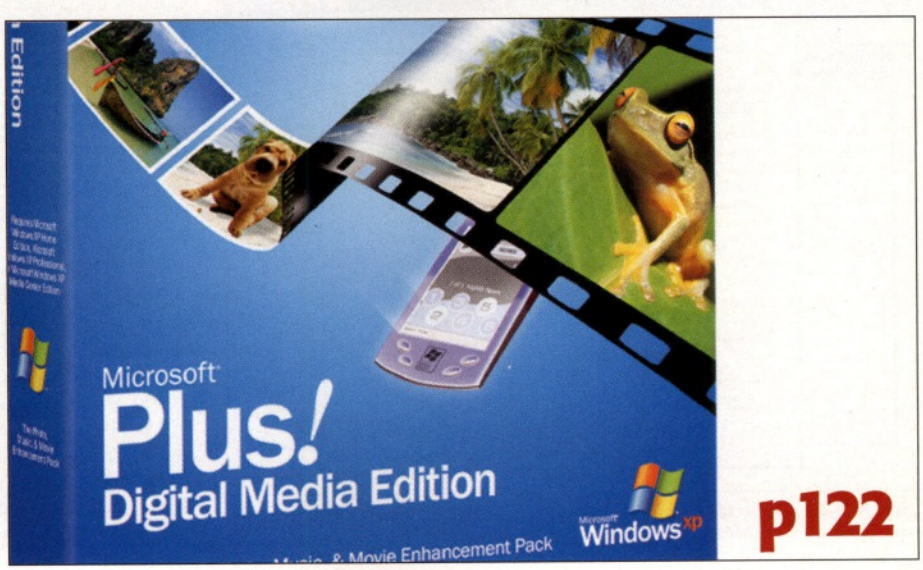
How our ratings work

Practical internet ★★ STAR BUY ★★ — A truly excellent product you should buy now. Given to scores of 90% or above

Practical internet RECOMMENDED — It's great, but not totally essential to your well-being. 85% or above

p117

p119



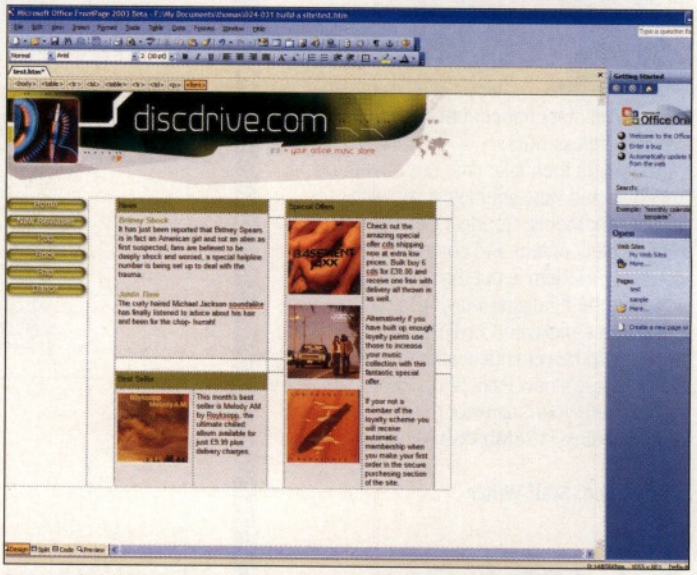
p122

FrontPage 2003 Beta 2

AS PART OF THE NEW OFFICE SUITE, FRONTPAGE 2003 PROMISES BIG CHANGES FOR ITS FANS. WE ROAD TEST THE BETA VERSION

In years gone by, FrontPage could command the same number of column inches as its illustrious rivals, but recent launches from Macromedia and Adobe have shoved Microsoft's WYSIWYG to the back of people's minds for the time being. If there's one thing we should all have learned by now, though, it's that Bill Gates and his army don't like being beaten. So, it's no surprise that this latest version of FrontPage (the 2003 edition, no less), contains a wealth of updates, tweaks and general improvements.

However, there's a couple of things we should point out before we go any further. Firstly, this new edition of FrontPage is part of the much, much larger Office 2003 suite – our review copy came on a somewhat staggering 15 CDs. Secondly, the full version simply wasn't available when we went to press, so we've had to take a butcher's at the second beta version. This is a fairly advanced beta, by the looks of things, so we feel confident that we've seen much of the finished product.

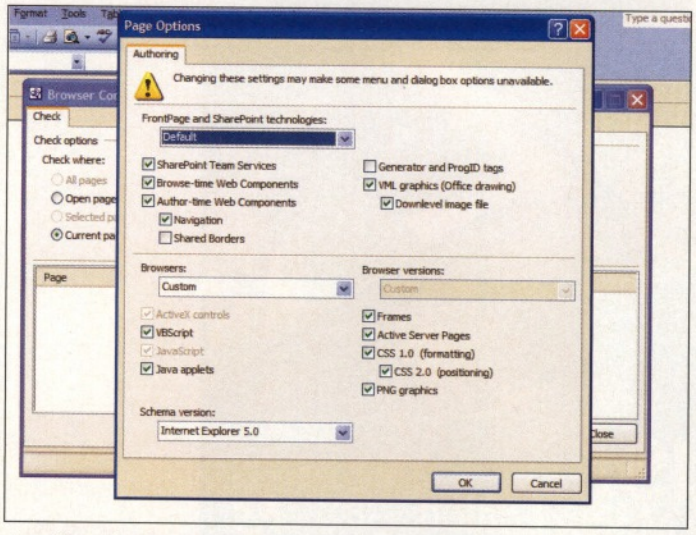


Boasting a look that is bound to impress and a feature set that could tempt Dreamweaver die-hards away from their favourite Macromedia party, FrontPage 2003 is a pretty good Web editor

Looking good

On loading FrontPage 2003 for the first time, you'll immediately be struck by the interface. Gone are the days of dull grey bars and even duller menus, and instead you're treated to a masterclass in designing an interface for Windows XP. Cool blue menus and impressively contemporary tools give you a look that is much more akin to the latest skinned edition of Windows Media Player than a standard WYSIWYG editor. The cornerstone of this new façade is the right-hand toolbar, which bears more than a passing resemblance to Media Player's Options bar. There's more than aesthetics at work here, though, as this function bar contains a variety of context-sensitive tools to provide you with further design options. In essence, this is rather like the Properties Inspector box you get in Dreamweaver MX, although the options here tend to be more generic.

There are a fair few additions to FrontPage's already impressive canon, with layout at the top of the agenda. One of our favourite features is the Image Tracing option, which proves conclusively that the best ideas are nearly always the most simple. The basic premise here is that you import an image which sits below your page layout and acts as a guide for your designs. If you're one of those people who draws up their intentions in Photoshop before laying a finger on HTML, then this might be your bestest friend.



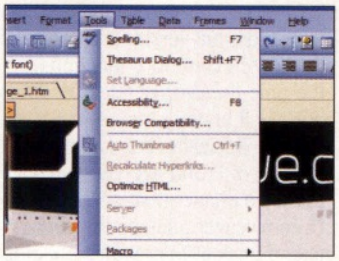
As you'd expect from any Microsoft program these days, FrontPage 2003 comes equipped with more options and settings to fiddle about with than you can shake a stick at

Easy styling

Styling up your pages is easier all round, thanks to the Layout Tables section of the program. These take your standard common or garden HTML tables, and give them a bit of a shake-up to furnish you with a greater degree of control.

Essentially, these are like the layers you'd find in Dreamweaver and GoLive. For the uninitiated, tables are okay, but these enhanced versions afford you far greater control over the exact location on the page that the table sits in. If you've ever spent hours building a gamut of nested tables just so you can get your layout right, you'll appreciate the ease of use that this feature gives you.

Picking up where someone has left off might not be your first concern when it comes to Web design, but there are plenty of us who have to co-work on Web sites, and there's nothing worse than



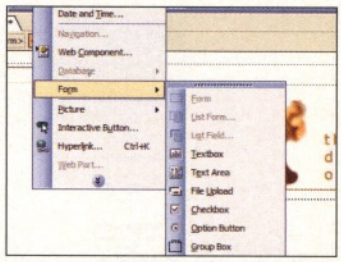
You even get a thesaurus as part of your tools

discovering that you have an incompatible version kicking around. FrontPage has made a pretty decent attempt at putting paid to such concerns with its layout detection function. Shove in a site, and the program will automatically pick up all the layout tables contained within – leaving you ready to start working on the content.

For the lazier designer out there, FrontPage 2003 also has an improved range of Web templates for you to plunder. As well as giving you the starting blocks for what could turn out to be dazzling sites, this section now contains a couple of additional nice touches. Ever conscious of the latest trends among the Web design set, Microsoft has obligingly included templates designed specifically to help you take your first steps into the world of Web logs. Before you know it, you'll be telling all and sundry what you had for dinner last night. This concept is carried further by the supplied CSS themes, which again generate all the basic design for different pages on your site, with the added advantage that Cascading Style Sheets can be used pretty much universally.

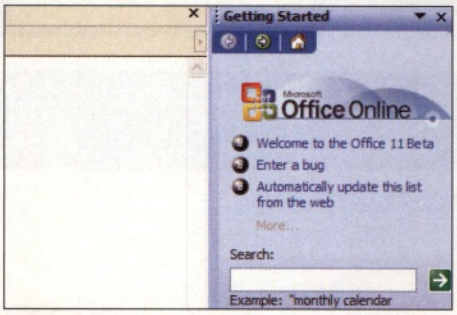
"FRONTPAGE 2003 HAS AN IMPROVED RANGE OF TEMPLATES YOU CAN PLUNDER"

FrontPage now sports full support for Flash animations, which means that you can shove your Flash movies into Web pages much more easily, and without having to look at boring lines of HTML. We also like the interactive buttons section, giving you the opportunity to create, well, buttons that are interactive. Sure, there are plenty of programs out there dedicated to such a task, but then again, why not use the easy built-in functions of your preferred WYSIWYG designer? If it saves you what the media types like to call round trips into other applications, it can't be all bad!



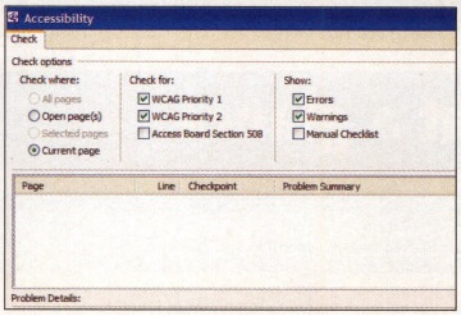
Adding forms is a walk in the park with FrontPage

A tour around the FrontPage interface



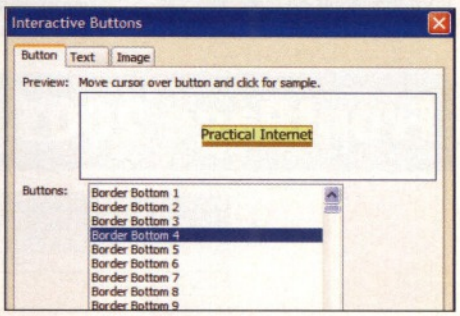
1 The taskbar

It functions pretty much like Dreamweaver's Property Inspector, but looks as good as any Web editor sidebar we've ever seen. Calling on the look and feel of Windows XP, this taskbar holds everything you could want for the currently selected function.



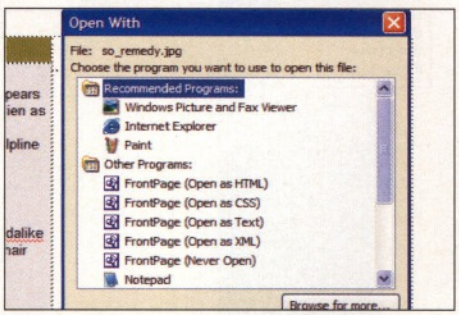
2 Accessibility options

We're all going to have to take heed of accessibility requirements soon, so it's no surprise to find accessibility putting in an appearance in this latest version of FrontPage, with a small but perfectly formed single screen giving you a wealth of options.



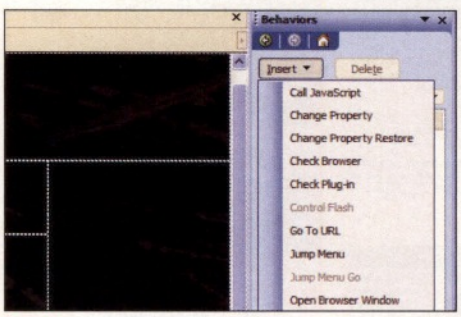
3 Interactive buttons

Bored with static links? Give your site some oomph without resorting to complicated graphical chicanery with the help of the Interactive buttons. They're simple to configure, look great, and no-one will know how little time you spent making them.



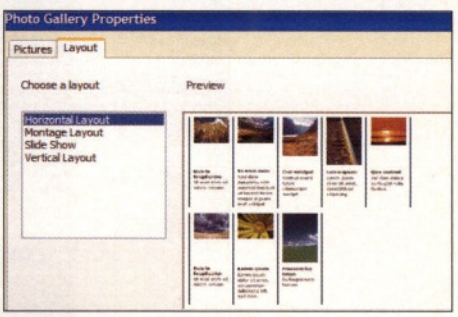
4 Editor configuration

With so many similar file formats doing the rounds, there's no point settling for second best when it comes to which program to open a file in. FrontPage affords you a staggering amount of control over this, ensuring that every file opens the program you want.



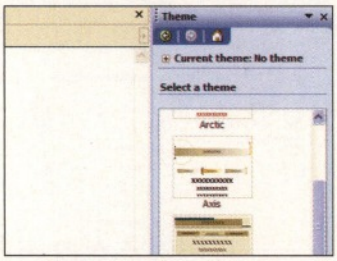
5 Behaviors

Bored by static sites whose elements don't interact with each other? Get ready to be excited then, because FrontPage's Behaviors section contains a wealth of tools to give your site objects a kick in the pants.



6 Photo galleries

It's not the most up-to-date feature you'll ever see, but we always adore anything that lets you create a photo gallery site in under five minutes. FrontPage's is a good 'un as well, giving you loads of control over the final site.



FrontPage has a wealth of themes to choose from

These visits into other packages can't be avoided sometimes, though, so Bill's boffins have gone to great lengths to ensure that you call up the right program when you need to. Given the catchy moniker of 'multiple editor configuration' in the program notes, this is a tool that could come in tremendously handy for people with loads of different images on their site.

Simply tell FrontPage that you want to work in Photoshop with JPEGs and Fireworks for your GIFs, and it'll do the honours for you from that point on. Like all great features, you know it's a good 'un because you can't figure out why it's not like this in every program.

However, not everybody uses a WYSIWYG editor for the sole purpose of generating easy Web pages quickly, so FrontPage contains a gamut of advanced options for that section of the community who love nothing better than to get their hands dirty on a bit of code. The most fundamental change to the way the program works is that the bogstandard FrontPage server extensions have bitten the dust, replaced by the all-encompassing Windows SharePoint.

"SHAREPOINT IS MICROSOFT'S VISION OF AN INTEGRATED WORLD"

Set to become rather large in the world of Web design, SharePoint is Microsoft's vision of an integrated world, where collaboration and information sharing are not only possible, but will soon be the de facto way of working.

Accessibility is an increasingly important concern for Web designers across the globe, and the beta version of FrontPage comes equipped with all the tools and guidelines you need to make sure that your site is as accessible to everyone as possible. You'll also find some fine XML options, as well as improved Behaviors to radically improve the way objects interact with each other on your site.

See you beta

When all's said and done, most of us are normally wary of beta versions – these are after all the versions that companies release to iron out their bugs and glitches. The beta of FrontPage 2003, however, is more feature-friendly than most full versions, and if there are even more functions by the time the proper release comes out, we'll be very impressed indeed. Basically, this is the best version of FrontPage yet, and there's a chance that some of you Dreamweaver aficionados might take a peak at Microsoft's building package next time out. ■

The verdict

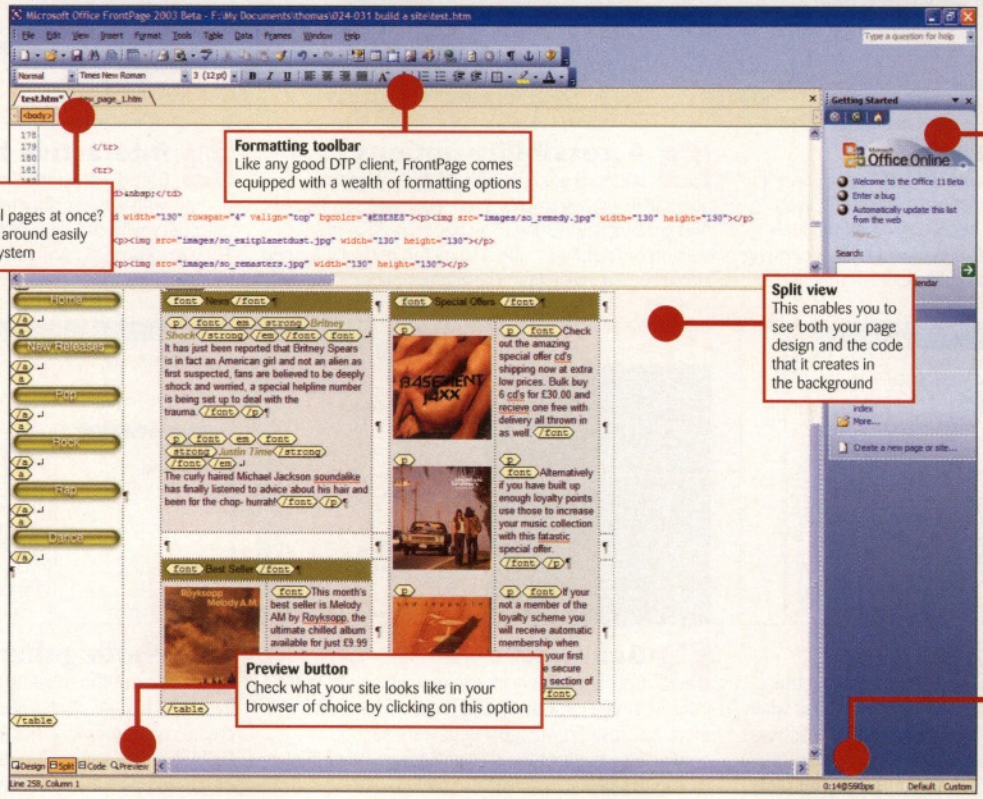
SOFTWARE: FrontPage 2003 Beta 2
PRICE: TBA
TEL: 0870 60 10 100
URL: www.microsoft.com

FEATURES: ★★★★☆
EASE OF USE: ★★★★☆
VALUE: ★★★★☆
OVERALL **87%**

✔ A good range of features which challenges its big-name WYSIWYG rivals

✘ Is it enough to tempt people away from Dreamweaver MX?

FrontPage 2003 at a glance


Page tabs
Working on several pages at once? Navigate your way around easily with this tabbing system
Formatting toolbar
Like any good DTP client, FrontPage comes equipped with a wealth of formatting options
Taskbar
Get yourself a load more options in this fantastic Windows XP-enhanced context-sensitive toolbar
Split view
This enables you to see both your page design and the code that it creates in the background
Preview button
Check what your site looks like in your browser of choice by clicking on this option
Estimate
See how long your site will take to load on the average modem here

WIN £1000

From June 1st to July the Biggest £30 Free Winner can win up to £1000

SUNNY
PROGRESSIVE
£377,516.73
AND CLIMBING

Sunny Casinos

CA$INO Fortune

Vodafone Mobile Connect Card

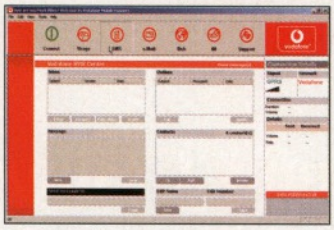
TRANSFORM YOUR LAPTOP INTO A MOBILE OFFICE WITH WIRELESS NETWORK TECHNOLOGY

Practical Internet ★★ STAR BUY ★★

Let's face it, everybody needs a mobile phone these days. It's quite incredible to think how these devices – once available only to the most discerning yuppie – have become so popular. We've all gone 'talk while you walk' crazy – and that's not to mention the revolution that is SMS texting. Couple this with a general boom in information sharing, and the next logical extension is on-the-move email and Net access. WAP turned out to be a half-hearted attempt to bridge this gap, suggesting much work to be done in placating the proverbial 'hard-nosed businessman'. Consequently, the only really bona fide portable Web connections have sprung up in expensive PDA hybrids, or in this case, laptops. Vodafone's new Mobile Connect Card exploits the latter to cleverly change traditional approaches to wireless networking.

Get up and go

Essentially a PCMCIA modem, this neat little device has an integrated aerial, which eliminates the need for a phone. Simply pop the card into your notebook and browse the Net the way nature intended within minutes. Before long, you could be keeping tabs on all your emails, messages and calls remotely.



Once installed, the Vodafone Mobile Connect Card brings wireless networking to your laptop

It can often be quite daunting when you use a piece of hardware like this for the first time. When the retail box is so small and yet promises so much, you get worried. You start to question whether your notebook will respond to the promises on the box, or whether it will die a death. Thankfully Vodafone has included an optimistically thin guidebook that talks you through installation. Compatible with Windows versions 98 through to XP, the step-by-step installation CD also goes a long way to getting things running. What's more, the proceedings are impressively quick with virtually no registration data required. This automatic recognition of new users can be attributed to the use of your SIM card. For those who don't know, this is basically a removable chip that provides network information to a mobile handset. The connect card works on the premise that you are already a Vodafone customer and therefore have access to a valid SIM. It's simple to fit thanks to the card's design and obviously enables connection to your mobile account for billing – hurrah!

Once the setup is complete and the plug and play drivers are sorted, you are prompted to insert the connect card. At this point a select few of the *PI* staff were tempted to sit fiddling with the cute flip-up aerial for a while. As well as providing a new toy, it also makes the device look quite cool.

Mobile home page

Software-wise Vodafone Connect uses a main utilities application and a login-based messaging suite. For the most part, you'll only really need the first, which offers a really basic dashboard of quick-launch buttons. In the main, these do little more than launch your default email client and Web browser, although SMS is done via an entry form. Contact numbers can be entered or imported from the SIM and messages keyed in. You also have an in/out box to keep track of what's happening, although this suffered through a lack of delivery reports. Sending test texts around the *PI* office soon confirmed success, so no worries there.

However, it's the Internet connectivity that impressed us most, with a download rate of 56.7Kbps providing more than just novelty value. The speed can be improved further by loading Web images in a low-res format but sometimes it still seems slow, especially if you're used to broadband. The upside is that you're charged on download volume and not how long you've been online (a resettable gauge informs you of your traffic).

It only takes a few minutes of using this program to realise how powerful it could be. If anything, this kind of technology can only be faulted where 'mobile' sensibilities are being compromised. The connect card is naturally very tiny but most laptops sophisticated enough to use it remain bulky. That said, Vodafone's new toy is a top performer that really charters new mobile office frontiers. ■

The verdict

HARDWARE: Vodafone Mobile Connect Card
PRICE: £149.00
TEL: N/A
URL: www.vodafone.co.uk

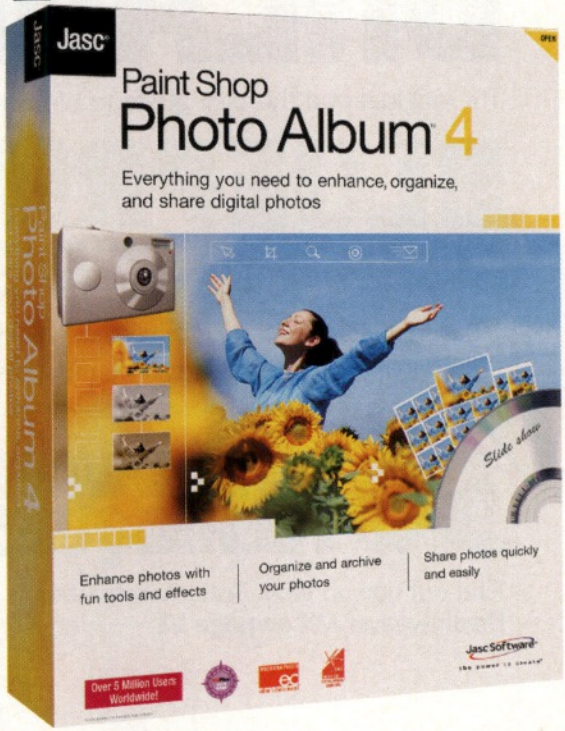
FEATURES: ★★★★☆
EASE OF USE: ★★★★★
VALUE: ★★★★★
OVERALL **92%**

✔ Easy to set up, a joy to use – it could change the way you work forever

✖ Only as mobile as the laptop it's in. Interface and SMS texting facility could be more polished

Paint Shop Photo Album 4

GET DEWY-EYED OVER YOUR DIGITALS WITH THE LATEST PHOTO ALBUM FROM JASC


Jasc
Paint Shop
Photo Album 4
Everything you need to enhance, organize, and share digital photos
Enhance photos with fun tools and effects
Organize and archive your photos
Share photos quickly and easily
Over 5 Million Users Worldwide!
Jasc Software

Ahhh, the photo album. Often relegated to the attic, these dusty archives always have a habit of materialising at the worst times. If it isn't parents embarrassing their kids with revealing beach snaps, it's the endless pouring of pics from the last big wedding.

Traditionally, solace was provided in the knowledge that the offending scrapbook or shoebox could be conveniently lost or burnt. Not any more. Consumer digital photography has allowed budding Baileys more power over their images.

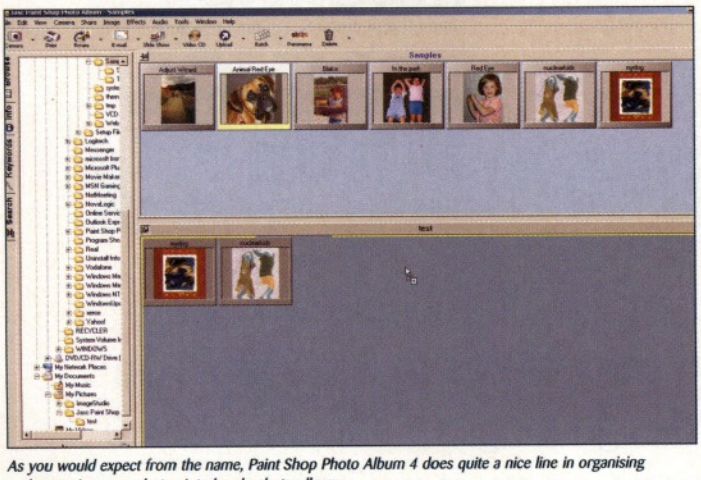
Jasc has compounded the misery further with its latest Paint Shop Photo Album. It joins a considerable list of packages offering photo management and presentation tools, including the Photoshop equivalent we reviewed in March. Images can be imported from a whole range of sources and edited using a selection of handy tools, before publishing them within a slideshow for posterity. Just think of the blackmailing possibilities you'd have at your disposal...

Freak show

The first impression when using this package is the sheer simplicity of the interface. Image files are located via a tabbed panel on the left of the screen and previewed as your file manager would be. Available files are then displayed as boxed thumbnails that look like mini projection slides, and can be opened full-size for editing.

This makes compiling your album files dead easy, as photos are purely dragged and dropped into sequence. These looped 'slideshows' can then be funked up by adding musical soundtracks or audio commentaries. What this means is that you can couple the many preset photo distortion and rippling effects with your own wacky multimedia.

On the other hand, if your cherished snaps are rather in need of some TLC, Photo Album 4 has borrowed some nifty correction tools from its big Paint Shop brother.



As you would expect from the name, Paint Shop Photo Album 4 does quite a nice line in organising and arranging your photos into handy photo albums

Sibling rivalry

The interface may be simplistic but it offers a wealth of wizards that will enhance shots beyond recognition. Of particular note is a red/green-eye removal pen for zapping spooky pupils, and a set of batch operations including rename and colour conversion. Web features are also covered, with facilities for emailing copies to blushing friends and an option to upload whole albums.

Perhaps the package's most exciting feature is its ability to publish slideshows onto a CD for PC or DVD playback. This could easily become a secret weapon for future grandmas the world over, setting an unnerving precedent for family get-togethers. Options are easily set for background styling and menu design, with neat little extras like intro music all covered.

In short, Photo Album does what it sets out to do very well, and its range of features is impressive. The clean and functional interface is just right for performing tasks quickly, although this does sometimes make for a bland experience. ■

The verdict

PRODUCT: Paint Shop Photo Album 4
PRICE: UK TBA ($49 in the US)
TEL: 0870 120 2186
URL: www.digitalworkshop.com

FEATURES: ★★★★½
EASE OF USE: ★★★★★
VALUE: ★★★★½
OVERALL **83%**

✔ Does the job in a straightforward and intuitive way, with useful trimmings to boot

✖ The fun factor could be heightened with more effects and a prettier interface

ON SALE NOW

at all good newsagents now!

Create brilliant sites ▸ Get to grips with databases ▸ New features in-depth
Practical Web Projects
The complete, jargon-free guide to...
PLUS: FREE CD! FEATURING OVER 50 VITAL WEB DESIGN UTILITIES
DREAMWEAVER
The original and the best guide to Web creation software
Windows Mac
BLUEPRINTS FOR GREAT DESIGN
▸ Build a better, faster and stronger site today
▸ Everything you need to create stunning sites
▸ 100 pages of Dreamweaver MX expertise!
50 TIME-SAVING TECHNIQUES
Find out how to work faster and smarter in Dreamweaver MX on page 12
ON THE CD
Support files for every project in the mag!
FREE CD EVERY ISSUE
Features every file from our projects, try outs of the latest Web design software and much more!
No CD? Ask your newsagent for one now!
▸ Over 50 pages of expert projects
IMPROVE YOUR WEB DESIGN SKILLS IN UNDER 24 HOURS
▸ Build a stunning Web site from scratch
▸ Speed up your design with templates
▸ Use CSS to create dynamic Web pages
▸ Add multimedia content to your site
▸ Learn the secrets of advanced layout
▸ Make database-driven sites with ASP
£5.99
"excite, enthuse and inform"
9 771475 138000 11
PARAGON PUBLISHING
Issue 11
THE NUMBER ONE WEB CREATIVITY TOOL

Practical Web Projects is the magazine for people who want to master the latest Web creation software. Each issue takes an in-depth look at a leading Web design program and shows you how to build amazing Web sites and create stunning graphics

Logitech QuickCam Cordless

Practical internet RECOMMENDED

ENJOY THE FREEDOM TO BROADCAST FROM ALL CORNERS OF YOUR HOUSE WITH THIS PORTABLE WIRELESS WEBCAM

While Webcams have been around almost as long as the Web itself, they've never really taken off in the way many initially predicted.

Perhaps the reason is they've always been very static. Tethered to your USB input by a short piece of cable, the device sits atop your monitor, filming as you gawp at your screen, or focusing on an empty room while you're away from base. The problem with this setup is it normally makes for rubbish viewing. Name one director, for instance, who's picked up an Academy Award for a film about a bloke sat in his underpants eating a bowl of cornflakes as he checks his email.

When Logitech's QuickCam Cordless winged its way into the *PI* offices, our apathy towards Webcams began to fizzle away. You can wander round the house with this device, filming everything you come across and relaying the footage in realtime to your computer through 2.4GHz cordless technology. No more boring shots of you staring at your screen or pulling funny faces. The QuickCam promises to behave more like a digital camcorder, letting you shoot family gatherings or re-enact your favourite movie in the backyard and beam it live to the rest or the world, or share the end product via email.

Logitech's QuickCam Cordless lets you broadcast video footage up to 25 metres from your computer

Cordless wonder

Setting up the camera isn't as tricky as you'd expect, and you're guided through the bulk of the process during the software installation. Once the drivers and the bundled Logitech software have been installed, you'll be asked to plug the receiver into the USB port and deploy the antenna. Then it's just a case of powering up the camera and loading the ImageStudio program which comes with the product.

The camera itself is pretty compact and ergonomic, and can be gripped easily around its base. Its slimline design lends itself nicely to mobile video capture and there's an LED located within the viewfinder which is visible from the front of the camera, so the person being filmed can ensure they don't stray out of the frame. Capturing still images or moving footage on the device is achieved by pressing the small button on the front of the device.

A small LCD display at the back allows you to select between camera and video mode. The display also lets you know which signal channel you're broadcasting from. You're given the option to choose from four different channels in order to ensure your picture quality is as clean as a whistle. What's more, multiple QuickCam Cordless units can be rigged up to the same receiver, which lets you switch back and forth between different cameras on the various channels. The camera also has a built-in microphone which helps you create complete audio/visual experiences.

Capture the moment

Using the bundled ImageStudio software to capture video and transfer it over the Net is pretty straightforward, and there are plenty of wizards and help files available for first-timers. ImageStudio handles pretty much anything you could wish to do with your camera including capturing pictures and videos, broadcasting video and setting up motion detection. There's even a 'Create Animations' feature which lets you use your Webcam to conjure up *Wallace and Gromit*-style stop-motion videos or time-lapse animations, to simulate a flower growing or the sun setting.

The picture quality of the video output isn't too bad at all, and there are three different resolution settings (160x120, 320x240 or 640x480) to choose from. The software also lets you adjust various settings such as the frame rate and white balance, and facilitates the correcting of lens distortion. Our only gripe with ImageStudio is that it doesn't inform you when it's run out of space for the video file, and simply stops the recording process without warning.

Logitech is sure to set a precedent with the QuickCam Cordless, and being able to broadcast video footage from anywhere up to around 25 metres from your computer is something Webcam users have been crying out for for years. Parts of the software may not yet be polished, but this is the most excited we've got about a Webcam in a long time. ■

The verdict

PRODUCT: Logitech QuickCam Cordless
PRICE: £179.99
TEL: 020 7309 0127
URL: www.logitech.com

FEATURES: ★★★★★
EASE OF USE: ★★★★½
VALUE: ★★★★½
OVERALL **87%**

✔ Innovative device that opens up a whole new world for Web broadcasting

✖ The video capture software isn't as smooth as it should be

AOL 8.0

AS ONE OF THE MOST POPULAR ISPS RELEASES A NEW VERSION OF ITS BROWSER, WE FIND OUT IF EIGHT IS GREAT FOR AOL

Despite ranking alongside Microsoft as one of the most influential companies in the Internet sphere, AOL started the year in dire financial straits.

In January this year, its parent company, AOL Time Warner, announced an annual loss of $100 billion – the biggest in US history. As experts came out in force to criticise the merger, the future looked bleak for the company's ailing Internet division.

Lately, however, there are signs that things could be turning around. The firm recently posted a first-quarter net profit of £251 million, and there are signs that the Internet division is beginning to revive itself. As a result, the release of AOL 8.0 has probably come at a good time for the company, as it seeks to drum up new interest in its Net software.

The format of the software remains largely the same. Sign up to an account with AOL (30 days free access then £15.99 a month), get a screen name, then use AOL 8.0 to manage your Net life through its Web, email and instant messaging facilities. While the interface may look pretty similar to the previous version, this hides a number of marked differences in AOL's features, designed to give you more control over your online life.

AOL has attempted to win broadband users over with its special Music channel

Preference tweak

One of the traditional gripes people have with AOL is that it's a bit too idiot-proof for seasoned Net users. Thankfully the latest version goes some way to improving this, with a collection of new controls such as its 'Web Pop-Up Preferences' option, which effectively squashes annoying pop-ups and pop-unders, while allowing through the windows you don't mind loading.

AOL has also cottoned on to the fact that people have had enough of junk mail, and its easy-to-reach Report Spam button, which appears in the inbox, reports unsolicited email to AOL's anti-spam department with a single click. Other refinements to the mail client include improved mail sorting and email icons, allowing you to prioritise your mail and access important mail more quickly, though in our opinion this feature is still not as refined as Opera's M2 client. The inbox refreshes instantly with any new emails, messages auto-resize for the best viewing, and pictures can be inserted into signatures.

In an instant

Changes have also been made to the browser's instant messenger which now includes Screen Names Auto-complete, spell checking and an indicator which lets you know when the other person is typing.

AOL has also finally introduced improved support for customising the interface. As a result, you can apply your own choice of theme to the desktop, toolbar, emails and instant messages via the About Me and AOL Expressions features. There's also a new AOL Companion desktop feature, which pops up when you start your machine to let you know if you have any new instant messages or emails, though as with any self-opening application, it can get pretty irritating when all you want to do is quickly load up your PC.

Keep the connection

Ultimately, the most useful new feature is probably the Auto-reconnect tool, which is great for dial-up users who find themselves cut off in their prime, as it will automatically reconnect and return you to the place you were visiting. The Best Number feature is also pretty handy, as it will automatically suggest the most suitable access numbers based on your region, though these didn't always prove to be very reliable in our case.

While there's no doubt that AOL is heading in the right direction with its software, many of the so-called innovative new features of the software have already appeared in MSN 8 and other browsers. Nevertheless, with the inclusion of a new Music channel designed for broadband users and an enhanced set of browser controls, it's clear that AOL is becoming more conducive to hardcore Net use, rather than just families. ■

The verdict

SOFTWARE: AOL 8.0
PRICE: Free
TEL: 800 279 1234
URL: www.aol.co.uk

FEATURES: ★★★☆☆
EASE OF USE: ★★★★☆
VALUE: ★★★★☆
OVERALL **81%**

✔ Some useful improvements, especially in its connection management

✖ Still may not suit those who wish for a bit more freedom and control over how and where they surf

Go Dedicated

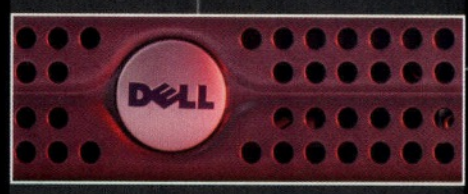
The Redstation range of high performance Dell Windows 2000 dedicated servers start at just £149 per month.

£149 per month

- Dell PowerEdge Servers
- FREE Bandwidth Included
- FREE Ensim WEBppliance
- 24 Hour Telephone Support
- 24/7/365 Monitoring and Security
- State-of-the-art Data Centre

Redstation Dedicated Servers are located on our network in a purpose built Data Centre - strategically located at the junction of multiple fibre and international satellite links. This advanced level of server hosting ensures unsurpassed performance, tighter security and full server functionality.

For those who don't want to get involved in the complexities of operating a server we can install Ensim WEBppliance 3.0 providing you with full control of your server and the ability to easily operate your own web hosting business without the need for any technical knowledge.



All dedicated servers include the following features as standard:

- Windows 2000 Server (SP3) pre-installed
- Microsoft IIS v5 (Web, FTP & SMTP Server)
- Ensim WEBppliance 3.0 Control System
- Custom DNS Servers
- 2 Dedicated IP Numbers
- Full support for multiple domain hosting
- Individual Website Control Panels
- ASP, ASP.Net, MySQL, PHP, Perl, SSI, FrontPage
- Website Statistics
- Firewall Intrusion Detection System
- Terminal Services Administrator Access
- Install your own applications or software
- 24 Hour Technical Support
- 25GB Bandwidth per month included FREE
- Additional data transfer (bandwidth) just 1p per MB

Visit our website at
www.redstation.com
or call
01329 828 224

To get an instant online quotation for your own dedicated server visit www.redstation.com/dedicated

REDSTATION
technology that works for your business

Practical internet RECOMMENDED

Iomega Mini 128Mb

CART YOUR PRECIOUS DATA AROUND WITH YOU AT ALL TIMES USING THIS CLIP-ON USB DRIVE

Forget discovering the history of the universe or finding a cure for the common cold, there's one burning question that's baffled scientists in recent years – exactly what is the point of novelty keyrings? Usually accompanied by a suspended plastic smurf or a 'hilarious' rubber imitation body part, the sole purpose of these monstrosities appears to be to take up all the available space in your pocket and pose an almighty choking hazard to kids. Okay, so they hold your keys together, but do they really need to be so bulky that they end up producing a bulge in your trousers so big it would make Linford Christie blush?

Then, just when everyone's thinking that the keyring has had its day, along comes a genuinely useful one. By genuinely useful we don't mean the sort that beeps at you when you whistle at it. Besides storing your car keys, this extra special keyring can also hold your MP3s, digital photos, IE bookmarks, email contacts – in fact pretty much any type of file you can think of.

Size matters

As a result, we'd already taken a shine to Iomega's Mini Drive before slotting it into our USB port. That's when the love affair really started to blossom. While it may not be an entirely new concept, this gizmo is a great example of everything a portable storage device should be – namely it's portable. The Mini Drive weighs no more than a handful of feathers and can be clipped to your belt as well as attached to your keys. Despite its small stature, the drive contains a roomy 128Mb of storage, enough for at least a couple of MP3 albums or a few hundred Word documents.

Like most similar devices, Mini Drive is self-powered, and requires no software installation, meaning you can use it on any computer, including Macs, at the drop of a hat. The butterfly-shaped LED tells you that it's hooked up, and this light flashes faster when transferring. Another nice feature of the device is its 'Mini Lock' software, which allows you to employ password protection to prevent data smugglers intercepting your precious files.

While it may be slightly pricey, its ease of use and storage space makes the Mini Drive the best keyring we've ever seen. ■

The verdict

PRODUCT: Iomega Mini 128MB USB Drive
PRICE: £63.45
TEL: N/A
URL: www.iomega-europe.com

FEATURES: ★★★★☆
EASE OF USE: ★★★★★
VALUE: ★★★★☆
OVERALL 82%

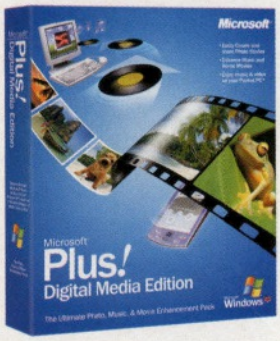
✔ Provides an amazingly convenient way of storing and transporting your files

✖ Doesn't bleep when you whistle at it

Microsoft Plus! Digital Media Edition

TAKE CONTROL OF YOUR DIGITAL MEDIA WITH THIS ESSENTIAL ADD-ON FOR WINDOWS XP

It's incredible to think it's been nearly two years since Microsoft treated the world to Windows XP. And with the next instalment in the Windows saga still seemingly a long way off, upgrade junkies have had to be content with the release of a handful of service packs, patches and add-ons. One of the most well-received Microsoft releases of last year was its Plus! Software, which added greater personalisation capabilities to the colourful OS, such as extra themes, screensavers and games. This new version of the XP add-on is designed to help you get even more enjoyment out of your digital photos, videos and MP3s.



Plus points

Perhaps the most appealing feature is the Plus! Photo Story facility, which allows you to bring your photo collection to life with the minimum of hassle. The simple step-by-step interface and storyboard allows you to quickly combine photos with narrations, background music and panning and zooming effects, to really paint a picture of the antics you've been up to.

Whatever you might think of Windows Media Player, this version of Plus! certainly improves its functionality and appearance. Our favourite audio tool is Plus! Dancer, which allows you to summon a desktop party animal to get on down to the MP3s you're spinning. The 'Party Mode' for Media Player is also a welcome addition – it lets you transform the player into a party jukebox to make Will Smith green with envy.

Other audio features include eight new Media Player skins, an audio converter and a superb analogue recorder for converting your old vinyl and tapes into digital format. With extra video effects for Windows Movie Maker and a 'Sync & Go' feature for adding Net content to your handheld device, it begs the question as to why all these goodies weren't included with XP when it was released. ■

The verdict

PRODUCT: Microsoft Plus! Digital Media Edition for Windows XP
PRICE: £15.95
TEL: N/A
URL: www.microsoft.com/windows/plus

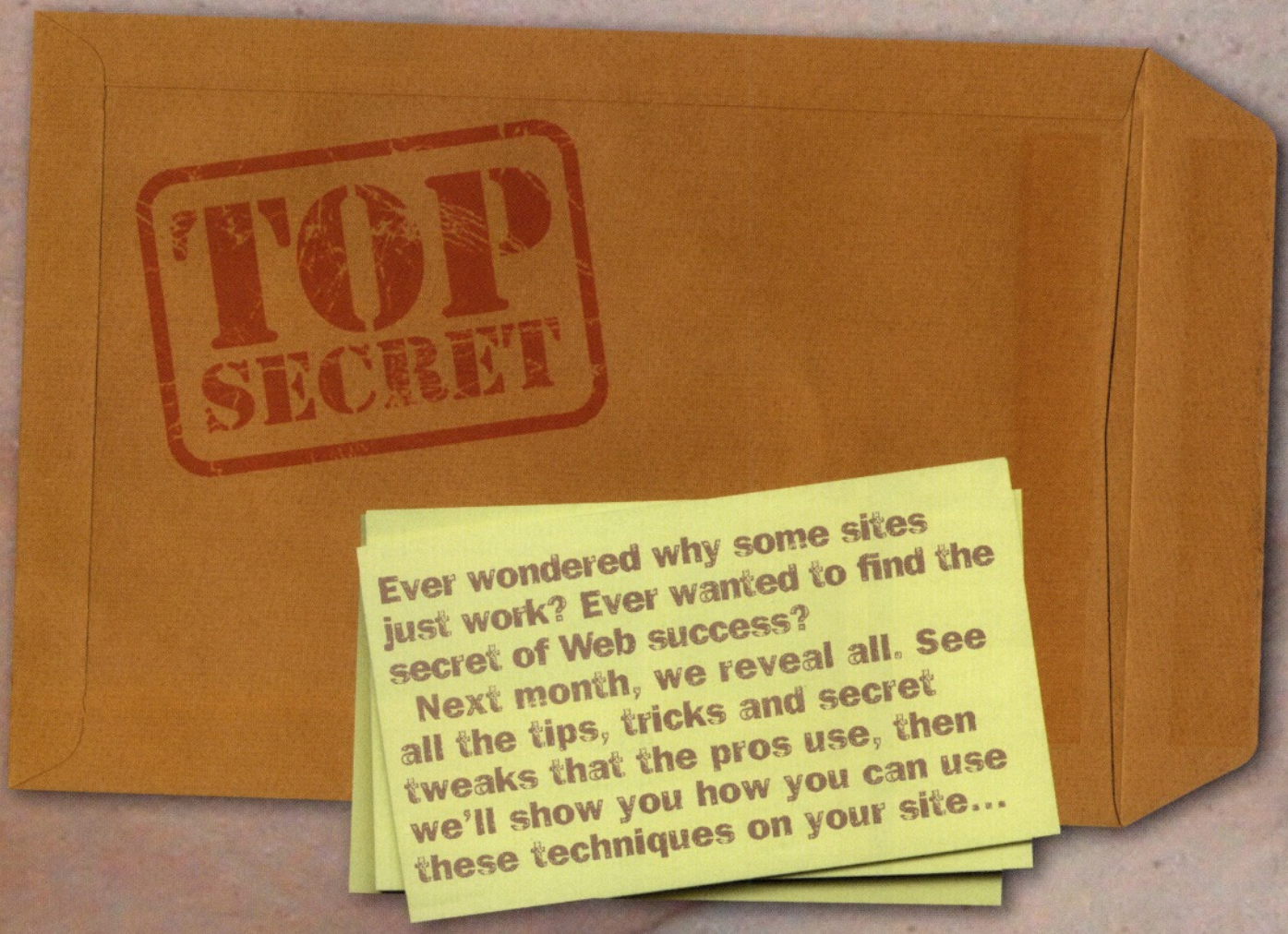
FEATURES: ★★★★☆
EASE OF USE: ★★★★☆
VALUE: ★★★★☆
OVERALL 89%

✔ Adds some genuinely useful improvements to Windows digital media capabilities

✖ Unfortunately only available for XP users

REVEALED

The secrets of brilliant Web design


TOP SECRET
Ever wondered why some sites just work? Ever wanted to find the secret of Web success?
Next month, we reveal all. See all the tips, tricks and secret tweaks that the pros use, then we'll show you how you can use these techniques on your site...

PICK UP THE NEXT ISSUE OF PRACTICAL INTERNET

ON SALE 26 JUNE 2003

CD contents

Welcome...

WHAT BETTER WAY to enjoy those blazing days on the beach or in the park this summer than by giving your music collection an airing. The MP3 encoding section on this month's cover disc lets you convert all your old CDs into the format of the moment before whipping them into an MP3 player and taking them out on your summer jaunts.

If, however, the weather takes a turn for the worse, we've got plenty of exciting stuff for you to do at home. For instance, why not create your own moneymaking online store with our fully working version of 4D 6.7, then shove a comprehensive search engine on the site with SpyServer.

As usual, we have the latest versions of all essential Net programs on the CD, helping you get the most from your connection.

Lee Cornish, Multimedia Editor
lee@paragon.co.uk

How to use the disc

The minimum recommended specification to run the *Practical Internet* CD is 800 X 600 screen resolution, 32Mb RAM, 16-bit colour, Windows 95/98/Me, Intel Pentium or compatible P166. We recommend that all users shut down all other applications while running the CD.

The CD will autorun in Windows 95/98. For users without autorun enabled go to the Start menu, select RUN and then type d:\PracticalInternet.exe (replacing 'd' with the letter of your CD drive) and press 'Return'.

Damaged discs
We will be pleased to replace any CD that is cracked, scratched or snapped upon purchase. Return them to the following address: Cover Disc Returns, Paragon Publishing, Paragon House, St Peter's Road, Bournemouth, BH1 2JS. If you experience technical problems, not due to physical damage on the CD, please DO NOT return any discs to us unless requested by the support team.

Missing discs
If you have purchased the magazine and have not received your CD, we will be happy to send you a replacement disc. Email **subs@paragon.co.uk** quoting the magazine and issue number, along with your full postal address and daytime phone number.

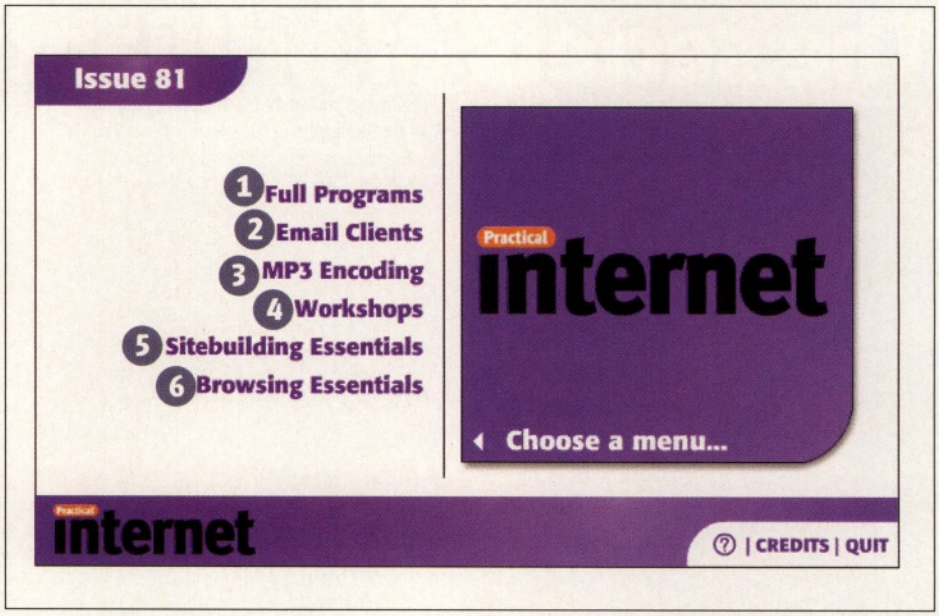
Problems using the disc
If you encounter problems using the CD or installing the software you can email **cdhelp@paragon.co.uk**. Questions will be answered twice daily. Please provide us with as much information about the technical specifications of your machine and the software errors you are receiving as well as quoting the magazine and issue number in your email. Our helpdesk team will be taking calls about disc installation problems on Wednesday afternoons between 2 and 6pm. Phone **01202 200259**.

NOTE: This service can only deal with problems when installing software from our CDs. Issues surrounding the use and purchase of software and all ISP queries must be referred to the relevant software publisher, merchant or ISP. Please note that we do not support Windows 3.1/ Windows 95/ Windows NT or Windows 2000 Operating Systems.

The CD logo

Look out for this logo in the magazine. It tells you which of the programs mentioned in features, or explored in tutorials, are on the *Practical Internet* cover CD-ROM.

On the CD this month...



1 FULL PROGRAMS

- 4D 6.7
- Spy-Server 5.1
- Tracks Eraser 3.11

Three full versions this month offering you a bit of everything – from design through to browsing

3 MP3 ENCODING

- CDex 1.4
- CD Ripper 1.39
- dBpowerAMP Music Converter
- Easy CD-DA Extractor 5.0.7
- FreeRIP 2.30
- RightClick-MP3 1.65e
- Rosoft CD Extractor 3.1
- WAV to MP3 Encoder 2.1.3
- Windows Media Encoder 7.1
- Audiograbber 1.81

Who wants to listen to CDs any more anyway? You have to put each disc in individually every time you want to listen to an album, which quickly becomes frustrating. What's more, playing discs actually slows your PC down. These are just a couple of reasons why we've included 10 encoding tools that you really should be using – forget about discs and the like, and instead get set to encode all your music to the format of the moment, MP3.

2 EMAIL CLIENTS

- Calypso
- DevMail 1.0
- Eudora 5.2.1
- Incredimail XE
- JoMail 2.7
- MailChecker
- Pegasus Mail 4.02
- Popcorn 1.20
- QuickSend 1.3
- The Bat 1.62

If our 50 Killer Tips feature on getting the most out of Outlook Express left you stone cold, then this is the section for you. Packed with 10 clients to rival Outlook Express, you're bound to find an alternative to Microsoft's package in here. Check out Eudora for more features than you'll know what to do with.

4 WORKSHOPS

- Accessibility
- workshop files
- Dreamweaver MX
- Flash MX
- Grokster 1.6
- Mozilla 1.3
- NewsAnchor 1.2

Get to grips with our workshops section with these files and programs. This includes Flash and Dreamweaver MX to enable you to complete your first accessible site.

5 SITE-BUILDING ESSENTIALS

- ACDSee Classic 2.43
- Arachnophilia 4.0
- CoffeeCup Firestarter 5.0
- CoffeeCup Free
- HTML 6.0 Dreamweaver MX
- HTML Kit 1.0
- Irfanview 3.8
- Web Counter 5.0
- WS_FTP LE 5.08
- Xara Webstyle 3.1

Get your site off the ground with this collection of 10 must-have building tools. You won't look back!

6 BROWSING ESSENTIALS

- Acrobat Reader 5.1
- Download Accelerator Plus 5.3
- Eudora 5.2.1
- Flash Player 6
- ICQ 2003a
- Internet Explorer 6
- KaZaA Media Desktop 2
- Mozilla 1.3
- Netscape 7.02
- Opera 7.10
- Shockwave Player 8
- Spyware Blaster
- Winamp 3.0
- ZoneAlarm

Browsing the Net can be a time-consuming and frustrating business without the right software. Before you know it, your hard drive is a mess, you're lost in a sea of browsing windows, and someone in the US is trying to crack into your machine. It's not fun when it gets like this, so we've decided to give you the programs you need to browse the Net effectively. We're not promising the most exciting collection of programs around, but these tools will ensure that you don't spend your time going round in circles, or even having to pick up the pieces when Mr Hacker has his way with your machine. What's more, most of the programs here are relatively small, so get 'em on your PC.

Try these

Flash MX, trial
Macromedia's much-worshipped graphics package gives you the power to unleash your creativity on the Web. We show you how to get your site moving by using Flash animations on page 52-53.

Mozilla, Freeware
It might be smaller than the average browser, but Mozilla is one of the best programs for surfing the Net around. Armed with some amazing features, we love it so much we talk you through the program's interface on p78.

Dreamweaver MX, trial
Firmly established as the weapon of choice for most serious Web designers, Dreamweaver marries superb functionality with ease of use. Find out how to get the most from the WYSIWYG Web editor in our bumper design workshop on pages 54-59.

Tracks Eraser 3.11

PREVENT NOSEY PARKERS FROM FINDING OUT WHAT YOU'VE BEEN UP TO ON THE NET WITH THIS AWESOME EVIDENCE-REMOVAL TOOL

FULLY WORKING PROGRAM! AS SOLD FOR £14

WE ALL LOVE a good session on the Web, but there are some sites that we may not want anyone to know we've been to.

Unfortunately, people don't need to have James Bond's powers of deduction to figure out where you've been online. This is because your PC tracks all your actions and stores the evidence on your hard drive. As a result, anyone can come along and see where you've been on the Net, and the images and movies you've been looking at. In fact, anything you do online is recorded by your computer.

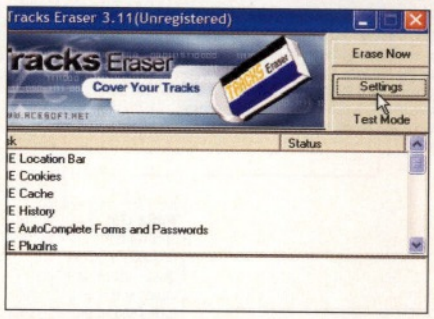
Maybe you've been shopping online for presents, applying for other jobs during work time, or stumbled across an adult Web site by accident. Therefore, you don't want your partner, boss or family finding out.

So what do you do? You could start by clearing your history or emptying your cache files in your browser's settings, but this won't protect you completely. Other traces of your Net activity are in index.dat files, cookies and temporary files.

One of the few surefire ways of hiding all details of your online antics is to install Tracks Eraser on your PC. The fully-working version of the software on this month's CD allows you to surf the Web with stealth and anonymity. The program can be used to completely erase tracks such as browser cache, history, URLs, Windows Run, Search and Open/Save History.

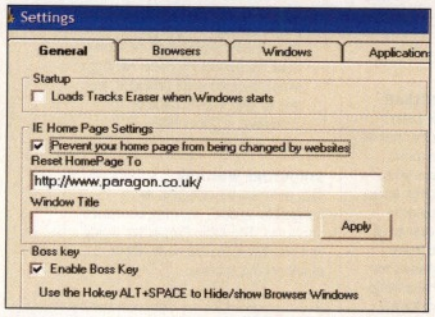
What's more, we're offering *Practical Internet* readers the chance to upgrade to the latest version, Tracks Eraser Pro 4.0, for just $10 (about £6). This version comes with a wealth of new features such as Stealth Mode, Outlook Express support and Scheduling. To take advantage of this great offer simply visit **www.regsoft.net/regsoft/vieworderpage.php3?productid=45637**.

Hiding your tracks with Tracks Eraser



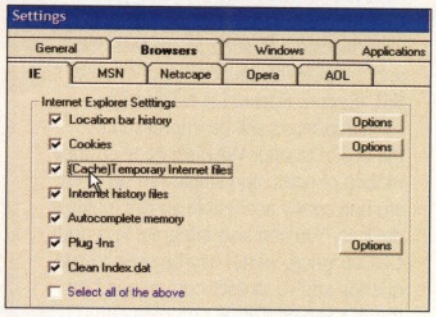
1 Getting started

Install the program from the cover disc and enter the registration code: 48447623y955. Once launched click the 'Settings' button to start configuring the program to remove evidence.



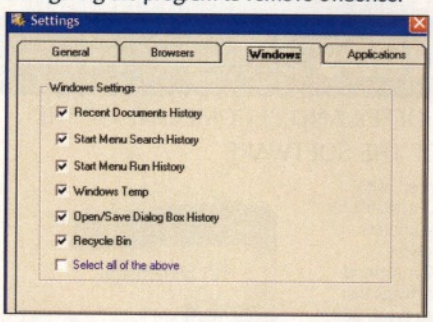
2 Save your home page

The Settings window loads and opens on the General tab. You can set the program to load when Windows starts and prevent your home page being changed by sites without permission.



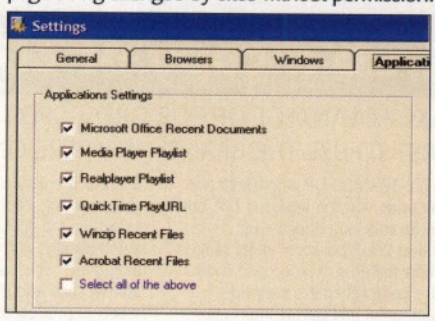
3 Erase and rewind

Click 'Browsers' to choose the files to remove, such as Location Bar history, cookies, cache and Net history files. Select the browsers you use from the appropriate tabs.



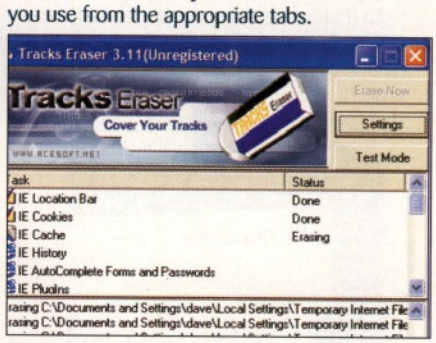
4 Windows settings

Choose which Windows items you want erased by clicking 'Windows'. You can vaporise items like Recent Documents history, Start Menu Search, Windows Temp and Recycle Bin files.



5 Application cover-up

Click 'Applications' to hide activity in Net-related programs like the Recent Files list in Office and Acrobat, and playlists in Windows Media Player, Real Player and QuickTime.



6 You're history

Once you've configured your settings, click 'OK' to return to the main menu. Click 'Erase Now' to start wiping your activity, but first ensure you quit out of any programs running.

CD contents

CD highlights

4D 6.7

FULLY WORKING PROGRAM! AS SOLD FOR £200

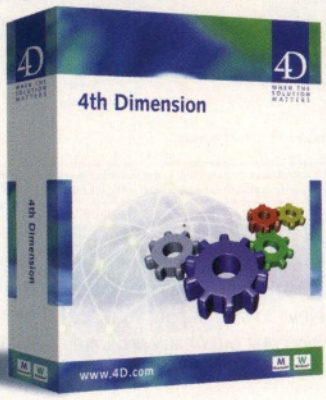
TAKE THE BIG LEAP INTO ECOMMERCE WITH 4TH DIMENSION'S POWERFUL WEB DATABASE DEVELOPMENT PACKAGE

ONE OF THE major factors that drove the dotcom boom of the Nineties was that everyone started to believe there was money to be made on the Net. For many the promise of untold Web riches rang true, while others failed miserably. The realisation hit home that non-viable commercial ventures would not automatically flourish online, and the perception of the effort needed became more realistic. Complexities of design considerations, site navigation, product placement and payment security were soon putting off budding entrepreneurs.

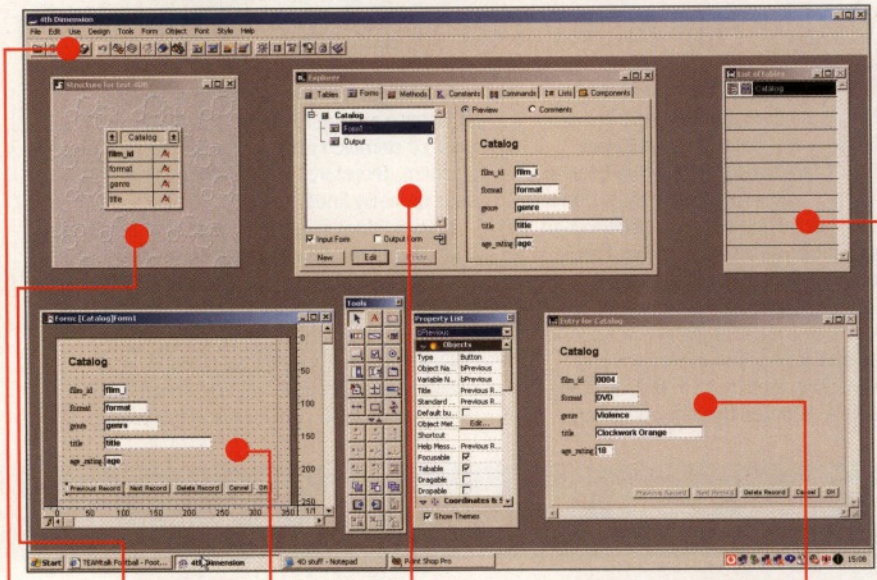
But it hasn't taken long for software like the successful 4D series to show new eBusinesses the way forward. If you feel the next step for your business is a Net presence, 4D 6.7 is the perfect tool. Traditionally a builder of client/server apps, the package allows the creation and administration of databases that can easily be tailored to hold product or remote ordering data. Communication is made bulletproof, with delicate info such as contact details and banking transactions encrypted by SSL (Secure Socket Layer) support.

Your punters will be impressed by the ability to offer WAP services on their mobile phones, and single site services are universally accessible across multiple devices. You can also integrate Java and CGI scripting, which can be used to run queries and recordset commands from the 4D Server. This is complemented by improved support for popular Web image formats and thumbnail creation, plus a wizard for publishing your handywork online without any coding.

To register the full program, visit the 4D site (**www.4duk.com**) and enter details to receive a code. Enter it into the serial number box on the Startup dialog, along with name/organisation to unlock.



FIND YOUR WAY AROUND 4D 6.7



TOOLBAR
The main toolbar has all the menu items you'd expect. It also provides access to all the main windows for table editing and form design, and offers reference via online help.

FORM EDITOR
This window provides all the tools to draw the perfect interface. Although simple templates are provided, feel free to start from scratch or customise to your needs.

STRUCTURE WINDOW
This pane previews tables as draggable objects, showing contained attributes. The Table Properties dialog can also be accessed here, allowing quick editing access.

INPUT/OUTPUT FORM
After setting up a table, you can add the raw data that forms the records. Once a default form has been generated, fill in the fields as specified and click 'OK' to save. Records can be flicked through using Previous and Next; Record Deletion is also available

TABLE LIST
This window provides a quick-glance list of all tables and their forms within the database. It allows you to keep track of the expanding application.

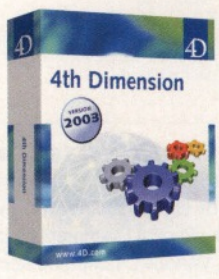
EXPLORER
This tabbed box is a quick navigation tool for configuring all aspects of your database. It allows you to preview both input and output forms, the addition of code methods and commands, plus facilities for setting up tables.

Grab a copy of 4D 2003

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF OUR GREAT SPECIAL OFFER AND BECOME ONE OF THE FIRST TO USE THE BRAND NEW VERSION OF THE SOFTWARE

WE'VE TEAMED UP with 4D to not only bring you the fabulous 6.7, but also its anticipated follow-up. Version 2003 boasts a whole range of new features that promise even more comprehensive support. Specifically, this covers application integration, enhanced reporting and developer productivity, but has been designed to remain compatible with other 4D packages. Data can be exchanged with fellow Web-enabled applications, and reports generated rapidly with dedicated wizards. Print features are also enhanced, with programming interfaces available for selecting and accessing printers automatically. With its own integrated code compiler, method-editing suite and all the things that made its predecessor so great, 2003 looks stunning.

To get hold of both Standard and Developer upgrades for only £95 and £295, simply visit **www.4duk.com/practical.html**. With RRPs of £195 and £495 respectively, you can appreciate the value on offer!



Ten top email clients

FED UP WITH PICKING UP BUGS THROUGH OUTLOOK EXPRESS? TRY OUR HANDPICKED SELECTION OF ALTERNATIVE EMAIL CLIENTS

INCREDIMAIL XE

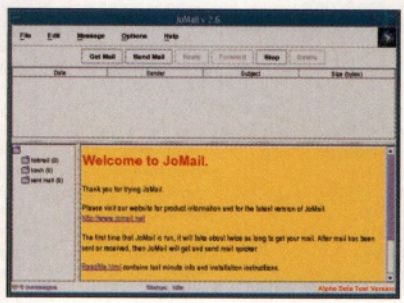
FREEWARE, 5.09MB

If you're fed up with dull, uninspiring emails, why not inject a bit of fun back into your messages with this larger-than-life client? The program allows you to personalise your mail according to your mood and personality. There's the opportunity to enliven messages with funky background images, as well as the inclusion of animated smileys and emoticons. Handwritten signatures can also be drawn or impressive voice messages recorded, while a colourful 'Notifier' client informs you of delivery. With all this and more, Incredimail is sure to brighten up the way you communicate.

JOMAIL

SHAREWARE, 8.39MB

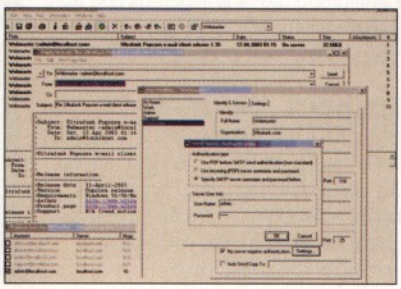
Now this is really handy if you're a Web-based emailer. You want to get your emails like everyone else does – with a minimum of hassle – and that means not having to access a site such as Hotmail first. This is where JoMail comes in, allowing you to perform all the necessary email operations away from your provider's site. Particularly useful when wishing to draft or read messages when disconnected, the client can also easily be configured to use multiple accounts. What's more, JoMail can be set up to filter out irritating advertisements – which you'll agree is useful on its own.



POPCORN

FREEWARE, 176K

Working as a client/server application with POP3 access, Popcorn is an extremely thin email program that requires no installation. This makes it perfect for remote applications and slow connections, with the ability to send and receive messages from many accounts. It also features filter facilities for eliminating spam, hefty file attachments and unnecessary post, with a fully functioning composer to boot. Floppy disk freaks will be pleased too, because the teeny filesize makes it very easy to transport between machines.

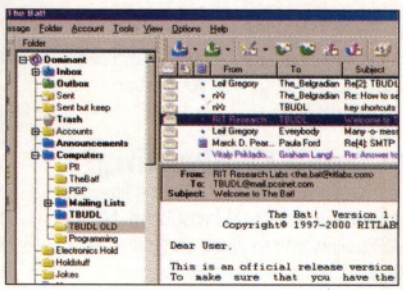


THE BAT

SHAREWARE, 2.42MB

Not just another POP3 mail client, The Bat supports all required message standards and multimedia. There are message templates, sorting and alert features, plus the facility to add photo icons to the address book. An Account Setup wizard means that you'll have no problems establishing a connection, with automatic dial-up keeping things nice and snappy.

This is all bundled together in an editor sporting a nine-language interface and spell-checker, plus HTML message support and virus protection.



Spyserver

FULLY WORKING PROGRAM! AS SOLD FOR £94

MAKE YOUR SITE'S NAVIGATION MORE FLEXIBLE WITH THIS INTEGRATED SEARCH ENGINE

GIVE VISITORS THE power of search with this Java Servlet. Spyserver enables text scanning of all the major file formats you may offer, including HTML, PDF, Word .doc or Rich Text. There's even the chance to manipulate output results with Java, such as highlighting keyword matches in IE4. The mechanics behind the Search textboxes you find on any good .com, this could seriously improve your Web design reputation. Effective navigation is vital, and giving people the tools to quickly find info can never be underestimated.

It runs on most servers, and with an interface of 11 languages there shouldn't be accessibility problems. It's also easy to implement and configure, so you should be emulating Yahoo, Google, etc in no time.

We've negotiated a deal to bring you the full version for £293.75. That's a saving of £100, and upgrades you to the standard, enabling unlimited file searching. Available until 30 June, you'll find this at **www.phdcc.com/ offers/?code=PI0503** – just follow the purchase links.

Freeware of the month

EACH MONTH, WE TRAWL THE WILDS OF THE NET FOR THE LATEST AND GREATEST FREEWARE, SO YOU DON'T HAVE TO

SPYWARE BLASTER

WWW.WILDERSSECURITY.NET

Nobody appreciates being watched, but you've probably got covert programs known as 'Spyware' on your PC tracking your Net movements. These can range from legitimate commercial companies doing a spot of market research, to the more malicious intentions of a hacker. Spyware Blaster counteracts this problem by simply preventing the installation of these pests, particularly of the ActiveX variety, so that no clean-up is required. A regularly updated database logs the most common varieties, and this latest version is geared to combat troublesome cookies too.

Most importantly, if you begin to suspect that your machine has become open to all but next door's dog, a System Snapshot feature will revert it to a clean state.

Buyers' guide

A comprehensive resource covering Internet service providers and the very best Net software and hardware. Compare them all at a glance...

Using this guide

BUYING NEW HARDWARE and software for your PC or Mac can be a tricky task. You often have to choose between products which cost the same price and seem to offer identical features. What's more, high street shops encourage you to spend a little more on buying higher spec products than you really need.

This is why *Practical Internet*'s Buyers' Guide is so useful. It's been written with everyday Net users like you in mind and only includes the products and services which we think are genuinely worth buying.

Buy with confidence

The information here is updated every month, but please note that prices and features do sometimes change before we can amend them on these pages – so it's best to check with the supplier before buying.

Look out for our cherished Star Buy logo (below) which is only awarded to the best quality products around.

Practical internet ★★ STAR BUY ★★

Which ISP?

With thousands of ISPs all offering great-looking deals, it's tough to find the right service. This guide helps decide which is best for you

BROADBAND: ADSL

ISP	URL	MONTHLY COST	SETUP COST	EMAILS	WEB SPACE (Mb)	NEWSGROUPS
0800 Dial ADSL	www.0800dial.com	£28.99	£65.00	15	10	Yes
ABC Net ADSL Home 500 Self Install	www.abcnet.co.uk/	£34.99	£35.00	0	0	NK
ABC Net ADSL Home 500 Self Install 20:1	www.abcnet.co.uk/	£59.99	£35.00	0	0	NK
ABC Net ADSL Home Single User 500 USB	www.abcnet.co.uk/	£34.99	£250.00	0	0	NK
ABC Net ADSL Office 1000 Self Install	www.abcnet.co.uk/	£94.99	£35.00	0	0	NK
ABC Net ADSL Office Multi User 1000	www.abcnet.co.uk/	£99.99	£250.00	0	0	NK
ABC Net ADSL Office Multi User 500	www.abcnet.co.uk/	£69.99	£250.00	0	0	NK
Abel Always Routed1000	www.abelalways.co.uk	£109.00	£130.00	Unlimited	50	Yes
Abel Always Routed2000	www.abelalways.co.uk	£135.00	£130.00	Unlimited	50	Yes
Abel Always Routed500	www.abelalways.co.uk	£75.00	£130.00	Unlimited	50	Yes
Abel Always USB	www.abelalways.co.uk	£25.50	£210.00	Unlimited	50	Yes
ADSL NOW! 1000 (Self-Install)	www.adsl-now.co.uk	£139.77	N/A	0	0	No
ADSL NOW! 500 (Self-Install)	www.adsl-now.co.uk	£92.77	N/A	0	0	No
ADSL4Home! (Self-Install)	www.adsl-now.co.uk	£29.32	£58.69	0	0	No
Albion.net ADSL 1000 LAN	www.albion.co.uk	£109.00	N/A	Unlimited	10	Yes
Albion.net ADSL 2000 LAN	www.albion.co.uk	£139.00	N/A	Unlimited	10	Yes
Albion.net ADSL 500 LAN	www.albion.co.uk	£79.00	N/A	Unlimited	10	Yes
Albion.net ADSL 500 Single	www.albion.co.uk	£39.00	N/A	Unlimited	10	Yes
Allcomm Home 500	www.allcomm.co.uk	£25.00	£150.00	0	0	No
Allcomm S1000	www.allcomm.co.uk	£120.00	£286.00	0	0	No
Allcomm S2000	www.allcomm.co.uk	£150.00	£286.00	0	0	No
Allcomm S500	www.allcomm.co.uk	£85.00	£286.00	0	0	No
Andrews & Arnold Home 500	www.aa.nu	£58.75	£99.88	Unlimited	Unlimited	Yes
Andrews & Arnold Home 500 Lite (Self-Install)	www.aa.nu	£29.95	£99.88	Unlimited	Unlimited	Yes
Andrews & Arnold Office 500 (Self-Install)	www.aa.nu	£75.00	£99.88	Unlimited	Unlimited	Yes
AOL Broadband (Self Install)	www.aol.co.uk	£27.99	£85.00	7	14	Yes
applica Connect1000	www.applicabroadband.co.uk	£99.00	£25.00	50	0	NK
applica Connect500	www.applicabroadband.co.uk	£65.00	£25.00	50	0	NK
applica ConnectSolo	www.applicabroadband.co.uk	£26.99	£25.00	50	0	NK
Aviators ADSL Home 500	www.aviators.net	£29.00	£199.00	0	0	NK
BISCIT EUSB 500 (Engineer Installed)	www.biscit.com	£23.95	£210.00	0	20	NK

Quick steps to picking your ideal Internet service provider

1 What kind of broadband?

ADSL is currently the fastest-growing connection type in the UK. It relies on you shelling out for BT to 'activate' your line, then paying a monthly subscription. Expect download speeds of up to 60Kb a second with an ADSL line.

CABLE services have been around for longer, and utilise the same kind of technology that powers cable TV into many people's homes. If you live in a cable-enabled area, then you can get anything up to 120Kb a second.

SATELLITE presents the only viable broadband option for people who can't get either ADSL or cable. Costs are high, though, and setting up tends to be very complicated.

2 Can you get it?

Many people can't get ADSL or cable access because it is unavailable in their area. If this is you, take a look at our rundown of unmetered and pay-as-you-go services.

3 Getting speedy help

Worried you'll need your ISP's technical help a lot? Use our guide to find yourself an inexpensive support line.

4 Are you a Quake king?

Net gaming is coming back into the limelight with the increasing popularity of broadband. Most broadband ISPs allow you to game on their time, but check their Web site first to make sure.

5 Building a Web site?

The days when you got a free domain name with every account you set up are long gone, but you can still get your hands on masses of Web space for nothing. Check that your potential provider is generous with free Web space – although 10Mb will be more than enough for most people.

6 Check the mail

Virtually every ISP will offer you at least one POP3 email account when you sign up, but it's worth checking out the small print, especially with new 'no-frills' ADSL services which are designed to give you a basic connection and not much more.

IN ASSOCIATION WITH www.net4nowt.com Net4Nowt

ISP	URL	MONTHLY COST	SETUP COST	EMAILS	WEB SPACE (Mb)	NEWSGROUPS
BISCIT Home USB 500 (Self-Install)	www.biscit.com	£23.40	£15.00	0	20	NK
BISCIT OFFICE S1000 (Self-Install)	www.biscit.com	£99.95	£28.00	0	50	NK
BISCIT USB S500 (Self-Install)	www.biscit.com	£74.95	£25.00	0	50	Yes
Boltblue Broadband (Self-Install)	www.boltblue.com	£27.99	N/A	5	15	Yes
Breathepro ADSL Connect (Self Install)	www.breathe.com	£25.99	£65.00	25	25	Yes
BT Broadband	www.btclickforbusiness.com	£27.00	£30.00	0	0	No
BTopenworld Business 500 Plug & Go (Self-Install)	www.btclickforbusiness.com	£29.99	N/A	10	20	Yes
BTopenworld business1000PLUS	www.btclickforbusiness.com	£119.99	N/A	10	20	Yes
BTopenworld business500	www.btclickforbusiness.com	£29.99	£210.00	10	20	Yes
BTopenworld business500PLUS	www.btclickforbusiness.com	£79.99	N/A	10	20	Yes
BTopenworld Home Plug & Go - Line Only (Self-Install)	www.btclickforbusiness.com	£29.99	N/A	10	50	Yes
BTopenworld home500	www.btopenworld.com/	£29.99	£250.00	10	50	Yes
BTopenworld Home 500 Plug & Go (Self-Install)	www.btopenworld.com/	£29.99	N/A	10	50	Yes
Business Serve 1000 Wires Only	www.businessserve.co.uk	£87.95	£60.00	0	0	No
Business Serve 2000 Wires Only	www.businessserve.co.uk	£107.95	£60.00	0	0	No
Business Serve 500 Wires Only	www.businessserve.co.uk	£67.95	£60.00	0	0	No
Business Serve SOHO Wires Only	www.businessserve.co.uk	£29.32	£60.00	0	0	No
CharityDAYS Donate ADSL Home	www.charitydays.net	£30.99	£41.13	Unlimited	250	Yes
Eclipse ADSL Connect 500lite (Self-Install)	www.eclipse.net.uk	£22.75	£25.00	Unlimited	20	Yes
edNET Multi User 500	www.ednet.co.uk	£99.95	£25.00	Unlimited	50	Yes
edNET Multi User 2000	www.ednet.co.uk	£129.95	£25.00	Unlimited	50	Yes
edNET Multi User 1000	www.ednet.co.uk	£199.95	£25.00	Unlimited	50	Yes
edNET Single User 500	www.ednet.co.uk	£29.95	£25.00	Unlimited	50	Yes
fairADSL (Self-Install)	www.fairadsl.co.uk	£18.99	£33.00	1	0	Yes
Firenet Speedwire 500	www.firenet.uk.net	£26.50	£75.00	Unlimited	10	Yes
Firstnet Single User	www.firstnet.net.uk	£75.00	£65.00	Unlimited	20	Yes
Force9 ADSL 500	www.force9.co.uk	£64.63	£305.50	Unlimited	500	Yes
Force9 ADSL Home	www.force9.co.uk	£22.99	£246.75	Unlimited	250	Yes
Force9 ADSL Home - Self Install	www.force9.co.uk	£22.99	£41.13	Unlimited	250	Yes
Force9 ADSL Netstart	www.force9.co.uk	£47.00	£176.25	Unlimited	250	Yes
Force9 ADSL Netstart - Self Install	www.force9.co.uk	£35.24	£58.75	Unlimited	250	Yes
Force9 ADSL Office 500 - Self Install	www.force9.co.uk	£64.63	£58.75	Unlimited	250	Yes
Free-Online ADSL 500	www.free-online.co.uk	£64.63	£305.50	Unlimited	500	Yes
Free-Online ADSL Netstart	www.free-online.co.uk	£47.00	£176.25	Unlimited	500	Yes
Free-Online ADSL Netstart - Self Install	www.free-online.co.uk	£35.24	£58.75	Unlimited	250	Yes
Free-Online ADSL Office 500 - Self Install	www.free-online.co.uk	£64.63	£58.75	Unlimited	250	Yes
Freedom2Surf Pure IP 1000 (Self-Install)	www.freedom2surf.net	£95.00	£29.99	20	20	Yes
Freedom2Surf Pure IP 500 (Self-Install)	www.freedom2surf.net	£60.00	£29.99	20	20	Yes
Freeserve Broadband (Self-Install)	www.freeserve.com	£27.99	£84.99	Unlimited	150	Yes
Gconnect Business 1000 (Self-Install)	www.adsl-business.co.uk	£110.00	£30.00	1	20	NK
Gconnect Business 2000 (Self-Install)	www.adsl-business.co.uk	£140.00	£30.00	1	20	NK
Gconnect Business 500 Single User (Self-Install)	www.adsl-business.co.uk	£29.99	£30	1	20	NK
Gconnect Micro Business 500 (Self-Install)	www.adsl-business.co.uk	£50.00	£30	1	20	NK
Go-Plus Fast (Self-Install)	www.go-plus.net	£25.00	£60.00	Unlimited	10	Yes
Inweb Home 500 (Self-Install)	www.inweb.net.uk	£28.99	£76.38	Unlimited	10	Yes
Jings 500U PLUS	www.jings.com	£59.99	£180.00	Unlimited	25	Yes
Jolt Home500 Lite (Self Install)	www.jolt.co.uk	£22.99	£58.75	Unlimited	Unlimited	No
Jolt Office500 (Self Install)	www.jolt.co.uk	£29.99	£58.75	Unlimited	Unlimited	No
Kingston Karoo RapidTime Pro	www.kingstonbiz.net	£38.99	£150.00	Unlimited	20	Yes
MacAce AlwaysOn@Home ADSL500 (Self-Install)	www.macace.net	£29.99	£58.75	5	0	No
Madasafish Dazzle 500U 24	www.madasafish.com	£55.95	N/A	Unlimited	25	Yes
Madasafish Dazzle 500U PLUS	www.madasafish.com	£59.99	£180.00	Unlimited	25	Yes
Mailbox Business Connect 500	www.mailbox.net.uk	£75.00	£135.00	10	25	Yes
Mailbox BusinessWire 500 (Self-Install)	www.mailbox.net.uk	£75.00	£30.00	10	25	Yes
Mailbox Standard Connect 500	www.mailbox.net.uk	£34.08	£30.00	10	25	Yes
MetroNet 500	www.metronet.co.uk	£35.99	£176.25	5	20	Yes
MetroNet S500	www.metronet.co.uk	£186.83	£305.50	50	20	Yes
MetroNet S1000	www.metronet.co.uk	£186.83	£305.50	50	20	Yes
Netscalibur SoHo 500 (Self Install)	www.netscalibur.co.uk	£34.08	£64.63	Unlimited	20	Yes
Netscalibur Business 1000 (Self-Install)	www.netscalibur.co.uk	£158.63	£323.13	Unlimited	20	Yes
Netscalibur Business 500 (Self-Install)	www.netscalibur.co.uk	£116.33	£323.13	Unlimited	20	Yes
NewNet Business 1000 (Self Install)	www.newnet.co.uk	£92.00	£25.00	Unlimited	125	Yes
NewNet Business 500 (Self Install)	www.newnet.co.uk	£61.00	£25.00	Unlimited	125	Yes
NewNet Business 500 PLUS	www.newnet.co.uk	£88.13	£305.50	Unlimited	100	Yes
NewNet Home 500 M (Self Install)	www.newnet.co.uk	£32.00	£25.00	Unlimited	25	Yes
NewNet Home 500 N (Self Install)	www.newnet.co.uk	£24.00	£25.00	5	0	Yes
NewNet Home 500 S (Self Install)	www.newnet.co.uk	£27.00	£25.00	Unlimited	25	Yes
OneTel Unplugged 500 Plug & Play (Self-Install)	www.onetel.co.uk	£27.99	£60.00	1	0	No
Onyx Business Broadband Silver (Self-Install)	www.onyx-adsl.net	£82.25	N/A	Unlimited	25	Yes
Onyx Home Office Broadband (Self-Install)	www.onyx-adsl.net	£29.99	N/A	Unlimited	0	Yes
Pipemedia USB 512K	www.adsl.uk.net	£57.58	£235.00	Unlimited	50	Yes
PIPEX Business 500	www.pipex.com	£82.19	£323.13	12	50	Yes
PIPEX Xtreme Business 500 (Self-Install)	www.pipex.com	£76.32	£70.50	12	50	Yes
PIPEX Xtreme Home Office (Self-Install)	www.pipex.com	£29.32	£70.50	12	50	Yes
PIPEX Xtreme Solo (Self-Install)	www.pipex.com	£23.44	£58.75	12	50	Yes
PlusNet ADSL 500	www.plus.net	£88.13	£152.75	Unlimited	500	Yes
PlusNet ADSL Home	www.plus.net	£22.99	£246.75	Unlimited	250	Yes
PlusNet ADSL 1000	www.plus.net	£129.25	£152.75	Unlimited	500	Yes
PlusNet ADSL Netstart	www.plus.net	£246.75	£35.24	Unlimited	250	Yes
PlusNet ADSL Home Surf - Self Install	www.plus.net	£19.99	N/A	Unlimited	25	Yes
PlusNet ADSL Netstart - Self Install	www.plus.net	£35.24	£29.38	Unlimited	250	Yes

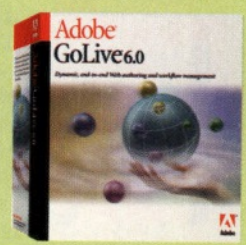
TOP BUYS

Web site builders

Dreamweaver MX

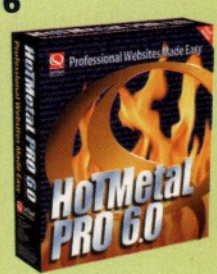
£352.31
www.macromedia.com
What's good? Reaches new levels of usability, all you need to create dynamic Web sites
What's bad? It's still very very expensive
Telephone: 0800 8358 5857
Verdict: 92%

Adobe GoLive 6



£229
www.adobe.com
What's good? Delivers superb results and allows you to create content for numerous different platforms
What's bad? It isn't cheap, some areas of the program still more baffling than Dreamweaver
Telephone: 020 8606 4001
Verdict: 82%

HoTMetaL Pro 6



£79
www.hotmetalpro.com
What's good? Inexpensive program with expensive-looking features
What's bad? The integration of HTML coding might bamboozle beginners
Telephone: 020 8387 4110
Verdict: 73%

Flash MX

£369
www.macromedia.com
What's good? The totally revamped interface is superior to its predecessors, plenty of new tools
What's bad? Still a bit expensive
Telephone: 0800 8358 5857
Verdict: 94%

Buyers' guide

Which ISP?

TOP BUYS

Web image editors

PhotoImpact 8

£89
www.ulead.co.uk
What's good? Comprehensive imaging package that takes the needs of Web users into account
What's bad? Could be considered pricey
Telephone: 01327 844755
Verdict: 91%

Adobe Photoshop Elements 2.0

£88
www.adobe.com
What's good? Unrivalled range of incredible features. Great value
What's bad? There aren't that many major changes since version one
Telephone: 020 8606 4000
Verdict: 92%

Adobe Photoshop 7.0

£586.33
www.adobe.com
What's good? A truly amazing set of tools for graphic professionals
What's bad? Expensive and still a little complicated in some areas
Telephone: 020 8606 4001
Verdict: 89%

JASC Paint Shop Pro 7 AE

£79+VAT
www.digitalworkshop.co.uk
What's good? Cheap, intuitive and easy to use. A dream for those new to the world of graphics
What's bad? Doesn't offer the same depth of features as Adobe's Photoshop
Telephone: 01295 258335
Verdict: 90%

ISP	URL	MONTHLY COST	SETUP COST	EMAILS	WEB SPACE (Mb)	NEWSGROUPS
PlusNet ADSL Office 500 - Self Install	www.plus.net	£64.63	£29.38	Unlimited	500	Yes
Poptel Home Office Basic 500	www.poptel.coop	£41.07	£293.69	5	10	Yes
Poptel Home User Basic 500	www.poptel.coop	£35.19	£176.19	5	10	Yes
Poptel Office Standard 500	www.poptel.coop	£92.83	£305.50	5	10	Yes
Scotland4me	www.scotland4me.net	£29.38	£70.50	Unlimited	50	No
Silvermead Broadband (Self-Install)	www.silvermead.net	£28.99	£65.00	15	10	Yes
Sniff Out DreamTime (Self-Install)	www.sniffout.net	£23.49	£58.75	Unlimited	Unlimited	Yes
Sonnet Internet Office 1000 Self-Install	www.sonnetinternet.co.uk	£105.75	£70.50	500	250	Yes
Sonnet Internet Office 500 Self-Install	www.sonnetinternet.co.uk	£76.38	£70.50	500	250	Yes
Sonnet Internet Professional 500 Self-Install	www.sonnetinternet.co.uk	£29.38	£70.50	500	100	Yes
Star - Broad Star Remote	www.star.net.uk	£70.50	£293.75	0	0	No
Supanet - 0512Kbps	www.supanet.com	£29.99	£119.99	Unlimited	20	Yes
Timewarp ADSL Home User (Self-Install)	www.timewarp.co.uk	£29.99	£58.75	1	10	Yes
Timewarp ADSL Online User (Self-Install)	www.timewarp.co.uk	£28.20	£58.75	1	10	Yes
Timewarp ADSL SOHO User (Self-Install)	www.timewarp.co.uk	£40.00	£58.75	3	20	Yes
Timewarp Office 500 (Self-Install)	www.timewarp.co.uk	£94.00	£58.75	3	50	Yes
Tiscali Broadband (Self-Install)	www.tiscali.co.uk	£19.99	£50.00	6	100	Yes
Tiscali Broadband Plus (Self-Install)	www.tiscali.co.uk	£27.99	N/A	6	100	Yes
Tiscali T500	www.tiscali.co.uk	£89.29	£305.50	Unlimited	50	Yes
UTV Clicksilver Business	u.tv	£35.25	£58.75	Unlimited	Unlimited	Yes
UTV Clicksilver Residential	u.tv	£27.50	£49.50	Unlimited	Unlimited	Yes
V Two One Business 500 (Self-Install)	www.v21.co.uk	£64.63	£70.49	Unlimited	Unlimited	Yes
V Two One Home User (Self-Install)	www.v21.co.uk	£19.99	£70.49	Unlimited	Unlimited	Yes
V Two One Business 1000 (Self-Install)	www.v21.co.uk	£105.75	£70.49	Unlimited	Unlimited	Yes
V Two One Business 2000 (Self-Install)	www.v21.co.uk	£159.25	£70.49	Unlimited	Unlimited	Yes
VIA NETWORKS United Kingdom Basic 500 (Self-Install)	www.vianetworks.co.uk	£82.25	£58.75	30	50	Yes
Virgin.net Broadband (Self-Install)	www.virgin.net	£24.99	£39.99	5	10	Yes
Vispa Home 500 (Self-Install)	www.vispa.net	£28.99	£58.75	Unlimited	15	Yes
Vulture Capital ADSL Connect (Self-Install)	www.vcisp.net	£25.99	£65.00	25	25	Yes
ZenADSL Home (Self-Install)	www.zenadsl.com	£25.52	£25.00	5	50	Yes
ZenADSL Multi-User 512Kbps	www.zenadsl.com	£76.38	£305.50	5	50	Yes
ZenADSL Single-User 512Kbps	www.zenadsl.com	£29.99	£176.25	5	50	Yes
ZeNOC GamesStream 512	www.zenoc.net	£55.00	£100.00	5	20	Yes
ZeNOC WorkStream 512	www.zenoc.net	£115.00	£300.00	5	20	Yes

BROADBAND: CABLE

ISP	URL	MONTHLY COST	SETUP COST	EMAILS	WEB SPACE (Mb)	NEWSGROUPS
blueyonder broadband 1Mb	info.blueyonder.co.uk/	£39.99	£50.00	15	30	Yes
Blueyonder broadband 500	info.blueyonder.co.uk/	£29.99	£50.00	15	30	Yes
NTL 128K	www.ntl.co.uk	£14.99	£25.00	15	55	Yes
NTL 1Mb	www.ntl.co.uk	£49.99	N/A	15	55	Yes
NTL 600K	www.ntl.co.uk	£24.99	N/A	15	55	Yes

BROADBAND: SATELLITE

ISP	URL	MONTHLY COST	SETUP COST	EMAILS	WEB SPACE (Mb)	NEWSGROUPS
Bentley Walker Bronze Surfer	www.bentleywalker.com	£75.00	£100.00	0	0	No
BTopenworld Business Satellite 500/1	www.btopenworld.com/	£70.49	£1,056.33	20	20	Yes
BTopenworld Business Satellite 500/4	www.btopenworld.com/	£129.24	£1,526.33	100	20	Yes
Europe Online	www.europeonline.com	£6.36	N/A	5	0	Yes
HSIViaSat Home Edition	www.hsiviasat.com	£29.07	N/A	0	0	No
Mac-1 Internet USB Bronze	www.mac-1.com	£182.13	N/A	0	0	No
SatDrive	www.satdrive.com	£14.99	£399.00	0	0	No
Silvermead Satellite Broadband	www.silvermead.net	£34.99	£49.99	15	10	Yes
Skystorm	www.skystorm.net	£17.63	N/A	0	0	No
Starspeeder	www.starspeeder.co.uk	£17.63	N/A	0	0	No
Xantic	www.xanticbroadband.com	£29.38	£180.95	0	0	No

BROADBAND: WIRELESS

ISP	URL	MONTHLY COST	SETUP COST	EMAILS	WEB SPACE (Mb)	NEWSGROUPS
IAP Broadband	www.iap.uk.net	£29.99	£150.00	10	10	Yes
IAP Broadband X2	www.iap.uk.net	£39.99	£150.00	10	10	Yes
IAP Unmetered	www.iap.uk.net	£11.99	£150.00	5	5	Yes
IAP Unmetered X2	www.iap.uk.net	£19.99	£150.00	5	5	Yes
Liberty Broadband (business)	www.libertybroadband.co.uk	£111.61	£175.08	Unlimited	20	Yes
Liberty Broadband (consumer)	www.libertybroadband.co.uk	£46.99	£175.08	10	20	Yes

IN ASSOCIATION WITH
www.net4nowt.com
Net 4 Nowt

0845 INTERNET PROVIDERS

NAME	URL	EMAILS	WEB SPACE (Mb)	NEWSGROUPS	SUPPORT COSTS	V90	K64	K128
Abel GRATIS Plus	www.abelgratis.co.uk	Unlimited	50	Yes	Premium - 25p	Yes	Yes	Yes
BlueCarrots Anywhere	www.bluecarrots.com	15	10	Yes	Premium - 50p	Yes	Yes	Yes
blueyonder	www.blueyonder.co.uk	15	30	Yes	Free	Yes	Yes	Yes
Breathepro Easyconnect	www.breathe.com	25	25	Yes	Local Rate	Yes	Yes	No
British Library Net	www.britishlibrary.net	Unlimited	20	Yes	Premium - 50p	Yes	Yes	No
BT Access	www.btclickforbusiness.com	10	20	Yes	Premium - 50p	Yes	Yes	No
CharityDAYS Donate At Home Free	www.charitydays.net	Unlimited	25	Yes	Local Rate	Yes	Yes	No
CharityDAYS Donate At Work Free	www.charitydays.net	Unlimited	50	Yes	Local Rate	Yes	Yes	Yes
Chilly Hippo	www.chilly-hippo.co.uk	Unlimited	50	Yes	Premium - 25p	Yes	Yes	Yes
ClaraNET	www.clara.net	Unlimited	10	Yes	Local Rate	Yes	Yes	Yes
Clearsignals	www.clearsignals.net	Unlimited	25	Yes	Premium - 25p	Yes	Yes	Yes
Club 24 Internet	www.club24.co.uk	Unlimited	20	Yes	Premium - 50p	Yes	Yes	Yes
Dabs netdial	www.dabs.net	25	25	No	Local Rate	Yes	Yes	No
Dabsol	www.dabs.net	Unlimited	Unlimited	Yes	Premium - 50p	Yes	Yes	No
Demon Express Total (Self-Install)	www.demon.net	Unlimited	20	Yes	Local Rate	NK	Yes	Yes
Devilnet United Kingdom	www.devilnet.co.uk	Unlimited	25	Yes	Premium - 50p	Yes	Yes	Yes
EidosNet	www.eidosnet.co.uk	Unlimited	20	Yes	Premium - 50p	Yes	Yes	Yes
E-Plus	www.e-plus.co.uk	Unlimited	15	Yes	National Rate	Yes	Yes	No
Euphony.net	www.euphony.net	Unlimited	Unlimited	Yes	Premium - 50p	Yes	Yes	Yes
Everywhere Broadband	www.everywherebroadband.com	10	20	Yes	NK	NK	Yes	Yes
Fasthosts LoCall	dial.fasthosts.co.uk	Unlimited	200	Yes	Standard BT	Yes	Yes	No
Firenet	www.firenet.uk.net	15	10	Yes	National Rate	Yes	Yes	No
Flyer Internet	internet.flyer.co.uk	Unlimited	25	Yes	Premium - 50p	Yes	Yes	Yes
Force9 Business Free	www.force9.co.uk	Unlimited	50	Yes	Local Rate	Yes	Yes	Yes
Force9 Free	www.force9.co.uk	Unlimited	25	Yes	Local Rate	Yes	Yes	Yes
Free United Kingdom	www.freeuk.net	Unlimited	25	Yes	Local Rate	Yes	Yes	No
Freebeeb	www.beeb.net	Unlimited	20	Yes	Premium - 60p	Yes	Yes	No
Freedom 2 Surf	www.freedom2surf.net	Unlimited	25	Yes	Standard BT	Yes	Yes	Yes
FreeNEasy	www.freeneasy.net	Unlimited	Unlimited	Yes	Standard BT	Yes	Yes	Yes
FreeNet	www.freenet.co.uk	Unlimited	25	Yes	National Rate	Yes	Yes	Yes
Freenetname	www.freenetname.co.uk	Unlimited	20	Yes	Premium - 50p	Yes	No	No
Freeola.net	www.freeola.com	Unlimited	Unlimited	Yes	National Rate	Yes	Yes	Yes
Free-Online Business Free	www.free-online.co.uk	Unlimited	50	Yes	Local Rate	Yes	Yes	Yes
Free-Online Free	www.free-online.co.uk	Unlimited	25	Yes	Local Rate	Yes	Yes	Yes
Freeserve NoTies	www.freeserve.com	Unlimited	150	Yes	Premium - 50p	Yes	Yes	No
FreeUnited Kingdom	www.freeuk.co.uk	Unlimited	25	Yes	Local Rate	Yes	Yes	No
Freewire	www.freewire.net	Unlimited	50	Yes	Premium - 50p	Yes	Yes	Yes
FreeZone	www.freezone.co.uk	Unlimited	20	Yes	Local Rate	Yes	Yes	Yes
Games Terminal	www.gterminal.net	Unlimited	20	Yes	National Rate	Yes	No	No
Go There Internet	www.gothere.uk.com	Unlimited	Unlimited	Yes	Premium - 25p	Yes	Yes	Yes
GoFree	www.gofree.co.uk	Unlimited	20	Yes	Premium - 50p	Yes	Yes	Yes
Go-Legend	www.go-legend.net	Unlimited	10	Yes	Premium - 50p	Yes	Yes	Yes
GPAnet	www.gpanet.co.uk	Unlimited	25	Yes	Premium - 50p	Yes	Yes	Yes
Hot-Toast	www.hot-toast.com	Unlimited	Unlimited	Yes	Premium - 50p	Yes	Yes	No
i12	www.i12.com	Unlimited	500	Yes	National Rate	Yes	Yes	Yes
IofM.net	www.iofm.net	Unlimited	Unlimited	No	Premium - 50p	Yes	Yes	Yes
IXUnited Kingdom	www.ixuk.com	Unlimited	20	Yes	Premium - 50p	Yes	Yes	Yes
JellyPeople.com	www.jellypeople.com	Unlimited	25	Yes	Premium - 25p	Yes	Yes	Yes
Loyal Mail	www.loyalmail.co.uk	Unlimited	25	Yes	Free	Yes	Yes	No
MacUnlimited	www.macunlimited.net	Unlimited	25	Yes	National Rate	Yes	Yes	Yes
Mersinet	www.mersinet.co.uk	Unlimited	25	Yes	Premium - 25p	Yes	Yes	Yes
Messages	www.messages.co.uk	Unlimited	25	Yes	National Rate	Yes	Yes	No
Ministry of Sound	www.ministryofsound.net	Unlimited	20	Yes	Premium - 50p	Yes	Yes	No
MWfree.net	www.mwfree.net	Unlimited	20	Yes	Premium - 50p	Yes	No	No
MyETI	www.eti.uk.com	Unlimited	15	Yes	Premium - 50p	Yes	Yes	No
NASCR	www.nascr.net	Unlimited	20	Yes	Premium - 50p	Yes	Yes	No
NetDirect Online	www.instant.ndo.com	Unlimited	20	Yes	National Rate	Yes	Yes	Yes
One Way Internet - PAYG	www.onewayinternet.co.uk	Unlimited	100	No	Premium - 25p	Yes	Yes	Yes
Onet	www.onet.co.uk	Unlimited	30	Yes	Premium - 50p	Yes	Yes	No
OnlineServe Dial Lite	www.onlineserve.co.uk	Unlimited	10	Yes	Free	Yes	Yes	Yes
Oxfree	www.oxfree.com	Unlimited	20	Yes	Standard BT	Yes	Yes	Yes
PlusNet Business Free	www.plus.net	Unlimited	50	Yes	Local Rate	Yes	Yes	Yes
PlusNet Free	www.plus.net	Unlimited	25	Yes	Local Rate	Yes	Yes	Yes
Prontoserve	www.Prontoserve.net	Unlimited	25	Yes	Premium - 50p	No	Yes	Yes
Qadisho	www.qadisho.com	15	10	Yes	Premium - 50p	Yes	Yes	No
Rapidial	www.Rapidial.co.uk	Unlimited	25	Yes	Premium - 50p	Yes	Yes	Yes
RugbyWeb	www.rugbyweb.co.uk	Unlimited	20	Yes	Premium - 50p	Yes	No	No
Sniff Out Classic	www.sniffout.net	Unlimited	50	Yes	Premium - 50p	Yes	Yes	Yes
Sonnet Internet Just Dial	www.sonnetinternet.co.uk	Unlimited	25	Yes	Local Rate	Yes	Yes	Yes
South West Net	www.swest.co.uk	Unlimited	25	Yes	National Rate	Yes	Yes	No
Sparticus.net	www.sparticus.net	Unlimited	25	Yes	Premium - 60p	Yes	Yes	Yes
Supanet Classic	www.supanet.com	Unlimited	20	Yes	Premium - 50p	Yes	Yes	No
SurfAnytime	www.surfanytime.co.uk	15	10	Yes	Premium - 50p	Yes	Yes	No
Tellnet	www.tellnet.co.uk	Unlimited	25	Yes	Local Rate	Yes	Yes	Yes
Tiscali Pay As You Go	www.tiscali.co.uk	Unlimited	100	Yes	Premium - 50p	Yes	Yes	No
Vispa Connect Valuetime	www.vispa.net	Unlimited	15	Yes	National Rate	Yes	Yes	Yes
Vulture Capital Easy Connect	www.vcisp.net	25	25	Yes	Local Rate	Yes	Yes	No
Waitrose.com	www.waitrose.com	Unlimited	20	Yes	Free	Yes	Yes	No

TOP BUYS

Digital cameras

Nikon CoolPix 4500

£599
www.nikon.co.uk
What's good? Quality snapper that yields great results with very little effort
What's bad? Looks really weird
Telephone: 020 8481 6875
Verdict: 90%

Kodak CX4230

£199.99
www.kodak.co.uk
What's good? Nice range of easy-to-use features
What's bad? Needs newer hardware to run at full pelt
Telephone: 0870 243 0270
Verdict: 84%

Rioch Caplio RR1

£749.99
www.rioch.co.uk
What's good? A sleek slimline camera with oodles of quality to boot
What's bad? Looks a bit cheap and the zoom is a little bit dodgy
Telephone: 01782 753300
Verdict: 90%

Pentax Optio 330

£499
www.pentax.co.uk
What's good? Excellent features and options. Compact and cheap at the price
What's bad? Its bulk can be bothersome
Telephone: 01753 792792
Verdict: 91%

Buyers' guide

Which ISP?

TOP BUYS

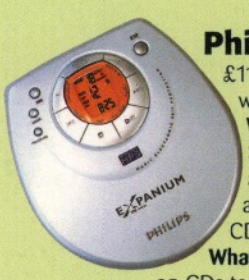
MP3 Players

Apple iPod

£349.99
www.apple.com/uk
What's good? Brilliant sound quality and the best designed player on the market
What's bad? It isn't compatible with Windows and it's overpriced
Telephone: 0800 039 1010
Verdict: 82%

Iomega HipZip

£290
www.iomega-europe.com
What's good? Uses removable media instead of flash memory, which is cheaper
What's bad? Bulkier and heavier than the Rio, also expensive
Telephone: 020 7365 9527
Verdict: 78%



Philips EXP303

£119.99
www.philips.com
What's good? Stylish, inexpensive and easy to use. It actually plays MP3 CDs!
What's bad? Still relies on CDs to play music
Telephone: 020 8665 6350
Verdict: 79%

Nomad Jukebox 3

£349.99
www.creative.com/europe

What's good? Huge storage capacity and stunning sound quality
What's bad? Odd navigation system and PC interface
Telephone: N/A
Verdict: 92%

UNMETERED INTERNET PROVIDERS

ISP	URL	COST	FRIACO	BT LINE REQ	EMAILS	WEB SPACE (Mb)	NEWSGROUPS	SUPPORT COSTS
0800Dial Home User	www.0800dial.com	£12.99	Yes	Yes	15	10	Yes	Premium – 50p
0800onlineserve	www.0800.onlineserve.co.uk	£14.99	Yes	Yes	Unlimited	10	Yes	Free
1066ad.com Maxi Surf	www.1066ad.com	£14.99	Yes	Yes	15	10	Yes	Premium – 50p
1066ad.com Mini Surf	www.1066ad.com	£10.99	Yes	Yes	15	10	Yes	Premium – 50p
123ISP Standard	www.123isp.co.uk	£13.99	Yes	Yes	7	10	Yes	National Rate
123ISP Twilight	www.123isp.co.uk	£4.95	Yes	Yes	7	10	Yes	National Rate
123ISP Twin Lite	www.123isp.co.uk	£18.95	Yes	Yes	7	10	Yes	National Rate
24-7Freecall	www.24-7freecall.net	£14.99	Yes	Yes	7	10	Yes	National Rate
4theNET Business Anytime	www.4thenet.co.uk	£23.49	Yes	Yes	15	10	Yes	Premium – 50p
4theNet Unlimited 24/7	www.4thenet.co.uk	£12.99	Yes	Yes	15	10	Yes	Premium – 50p
4theNET Unlimited Daytime	www.4thenet.co.uk	£4.99	Yes	Yes	15	10	Yes	Premium – 50p
4theNET Unlimited Off-peak	www.4thenet.co.uk	£9.99	Yes	Yes	15	10	Yes	Premium – 50p
Abel DIAL Anytime	www.abelalways.co.uk	£27.99	No	No	Unlimited	50	Yes	Premium – 25p
Abel DIAL Leisuretime	www.abelalways.co.uk	£11.99	No	No	Unlimited	50	Yes	Premium – 25p
AOL	www.aol.co.uk	£15.99	No	No	7	14	Yes	Free
Arsenal AnyTime	www.arsenal.com	£12.99	Yes	Yes	15	10	Yes	Premium – 50p
Arsenal Hometime	www.arsenal.com	£9.99	Yes	Yes	15	10	Yes	Premium – 50p
Asian Biz BusinessTime	www.asian-biz.net	£11.99	Yes	Yes	15	10	Yes	Premium – 50p
Asian Biz HomeTime	www.asian-biz.net	£12.99	Yes	Yes	15	10	Yes	Premium – 50p
Asian Biz SurfTime Evenings & Weekends	www.asian-biz.net	£13.00	No	Yes	15	10	Yes	National Rate
Barclaycard.net	www.barclaycard.net	£12.95	Yes	Yes	5	20	Yes	Premium – 50p
BlueCarrots At Home	www.bluecarrots.com	£8.99	Yes	Yes	15	10	Yes	Premium – 50p
BlueCarrots Unlimited	www.bluecarrots.com	£12.99	Yes	Yes	15	10	Yes	Premium – 50p
Blueyonder SurfUnlimited	www.blueyonder.co.uk	£12.00	No	No	15	30	Yes	Premium – 50p
Boltblue Anytime	www.boltblue.com	£12.99	Yes	Yes	5	15	Yes	National Rate
Breathe At Home	www.breathe.com	£9.99	Yes	Yes	5	10	Yes	Premium – 50p
Breathe Plus	www.breathe.com	£19.99	Yes	Yes	5	10	Yes	Premium – 50p
Breathe Unlimited	www.breathe.com	£13.99	Yes	Yes	5	10	Yes	Premium – 50p
Breathepro Connect	www.breathe.com	£15.99	Yes	Yes	25	25	Yes	Local Rate
BT Connect Lite Anytime	www.btclickforbusiness.com	£17.63	Yes	Yes	20	20	Yes	Premium – 50p
BTopenworld Anytime	www.btopenworld.com	£15.99	Yes	Yes	10	50	Yes	Free
BTopenworld for BT Surf	www.btopenworld.com	£12.99	No	Yes	5	10	Yes	Free
Business Unmetered Business User	www.business-unmetered.com	£15.26	Yes	Yes	15	10	Yes	Premium – 50p
Business Unmetered Business User 24	www.business-unmetered.com	£21.14	Yes	Yes	15	10	Yes	Premium – 50p
Chalkface Anytime	www.chalkface.net	£12.99	Yes	Yes	15	10	Yes	Premium – 50p
CharityDAYS Donate At Work Lite	www.charitydays.net	£29.36	Yes	Yes	Unlimited	500	Yes	Local Rate
CharityDAYS Donate Surf Lite	www.charitydays.net	£8.99	Yes	Yes	Unlimited	250	Yes	Local Rate
CharityDAYS Donate Surf Standard	www.charitydays.net	£16.99	Yes	Yes	Unlimited	250	Yes	Local Rate
ClaraNET FreeTime 12	www.clara.net	£4.99	Yes	Yes	Unlimited	50	Yes	Local Rate
ClaraNET FreeTime 35	www.clara.net	£14.99	Yes	Yes	Unlimited	50	Yes	Local Rate
ClaraNET FreeTime 80	www.clara.net	£29.99	Yes	Yes	Unlimited	50	Yes	Local Rate
ClaraNET FreeTime AnyTime	www.clara.net	£14.99	Yes	Yes	Unlimited	50	Yes	Local Rate
ClaraNET Freetime Anytime Business	www.clara.net	£24.99	No	Yes	Unlimited	50	Yes	Local Rate
ClaraNET FreeTime Unlimited	www.clara.net	£9.99	Yes	Yes	Unlimited	50	Yes	Local Rate
Dabs netinfinity	www.dabs.net	£15.99	Yes	Yes	25	25	No	Local Rate
Datanet SurfTime Off-Peak	www.datadsl.co.uk	£16.99	No	Yes	Unlimited	0	Yes	Premium – £1.00
Demon Premier Connect	www.demon.net	£18.75	No	Yes	Unlimited	20	Yes	Local Rate
dmc:dial surf:access	www.dmcdial.com	£13.99	Yes	Yes	7	10	Yes	National Rate
dmc:dial surf:biz	www.dmcdial.com	£23.99	Yes	Yes	7	10	Yes	National Rate
dmc:dial surf:lite	www.dmcdial.com	£7.99	Yes	Yes	7	10	Yes	National Rate
Fast24 Alltime	www.fast24.co.uk	£15.00	Yes	Yes	20	10	Yes	Premium – 50p
Fast24 Anytime	www.fast24.co.uk	£10.00	Yes	Yes	20	10	Yes	Premium – 50p
Fast24 Daytime	www.fast24.co.uk	£11.00	Yes	Yes	20	10	Yes	Premium – 50p
Fast24 Off Peak	www.fast24.co.uk	£7.00	Yes	Yes	20	10	Yes	Premium – 50p
Fast4 Unlimited	www.fast4.net	£6.99	Yes	Yes	Unlimited	0	Yes	National Rate
Fasthosts FreeCall Home	dial.fasthosts.co.uk	£17.61	Yes	Yes	Unlimited	200	Yes	Standard BT
Firenet Anytime	www.firenet.uk.net	£11.49	Yes	Yes	15	10	Yes	National Rate
Force9 Connect Biz	www.force9.co.uk	£39.99	Yes	Yes	Unlimited	500	Yes	Local Rate
Force9 Connect BizLite	www.force9.co.uk	£19.99	Yes	Yes	Unlimited	500	Yes	Local Rate
Force9 Connect Heavy	www.force9.co.uk	£29.99	Yes	Yes	Unlimited	250	Yes	Local Rate
Force9 Connect Lite	www.force9.co.uk	£8.99	Yes	Yes	Unlimited	250	Yes	Local Rate
Force9 Connect Standard	www.force9.co.uk	£14.99	Yes	Yes	Unlimited	250	Yes	Local Rate
Free-Online Connect Biz	www.free-online.co.uk	£39.99	Yes	Yes	Unlimited	500	Yes	Local Rate
Free-Online Connect BizLite	www.free-online.co.uk	£19.99	Yes	Yes	Unlimited	500	Yes	Local Rate
Free-Online Connect Heavy	www.free-online.co.uk	£29.99	Yes	Yes	Unlimited	250	Yes	Local Rate
Free-Online Connect Lite	www.free-online.co.uk	£8.99	Yes	Yes	Unlimited	250	Yes	Local Rate
Free-Online Connect Standard	www.free-online.co.uk	£14.99	Yes	Yes	Unlimited	250	Yes	Local Rate
Free24-7	www.free24-7.net	£7.99	Yes	Yes	0	0	Yes	National Rate
Freechariot FC Business Unlimited	www.freechariot.co.uk	£12.99	Yes	Yes	15	10	Yes	Premium – 50p
Freechariot FC Home Lite	www.freechariot.co.uk	£5.75	Yes	Yes	15	10	Yes	Premium – 50p
Freechariot FC Home Off-Peak	www.freechariot.co.uk	£9.99	Yes	Yes	15	10	Yes	Premium – 50p
Freechariot FC Universal 24/7	www.freechariot.co.uk	£16.49	Yes	Yes	15	10	Yes	Premium – 50p
Freechariot FC Unlimited	www.freechariot.co.uk	£13.99	Yes	Yes	15	10	Yes	Premium – 50p
Freedom2Surf Anytime	www.freedom2surf.net	£11.99	Yes	Yes	Unlimited	20	Yes	Standard BT
Freeserve Anytime	www.freeserve.com	£13.99	Yes	Yes	Unlimited	150	Yes	Premium – 50p
Freeserve HomeTime	www.freeserve.com	£12.99	No	Yes	Unlimited	150	Yes	Premium – 50p
Games-World	www.games-world.net	£19.99	No	Yes	Unlimited	20	Yes	National Rate
Gconnect Anytime 64K	www.adsl-business.co.uk	£19.98	NK	No	1	20	NK	National Rate

IN ASSOCIATION WITH
www.net4nowt.com
Net 4 Nowt

ISP	URL	COST	FRIACO	BT LINE REQ	EMAILS	WEB SPACE (Mb)	NEWSGROUPS	SUPPORT COSTS
GlenWorld	www.glen-world.co.uk	£14.95	Unk	Yes	0	0	Unk	N/A
Go-Plus	www.go-plus.net	£9.99	Yes	Yes	Unlimited	10	Yes	Premium – 75p
ic24 Office Hours	www.ic24.net	£8.99	Yes	Yes	1	0	No	Premium – 50p
Jings	www.jings.com	£14.99	Yes	Yes	1	10	No	Premium – 50p
Jolt Anytime	www.jolt.co.uk	£24.99	Yes	Yes	Unlimited	50	No	N/A
MacAce BusinessDaytime	www.macace.net	£29.38	Yes	Yes	5	0	No	National Rate
MacAce Homefree	www.macace.net	£12.00	Yes	Yes	5	0	No	National Rate
MacAce Homefree24	www.macace.net	£16.00	Yes	Yes	5	0	No	National Rate
Madasafish	www.madasafish.com	£14.99	Yes	Yes	1	10	Yes	Premium – 50p
nStream	www.nstream.co.uk	£12.99	Yes	Yes	5	25	No	Standard BT
NTL world	www.ntl.co.uk	£10.00	No	No	15	55	Yes	Free
One Way Internet	www.onewayinternet.co.uk	£14.99	Yes	Yes	Unlimited	100	Yes	Premium – 25p
OneTel	www.onetel.co.uk	£12.99	Yes	Yes	3	10	Yes	Premium – 50p
Pipex DialTime Dedicated 1 Weekdays	www.pipex.com/	£70.21	Yes	Yes	12	50	Yes	National Rate
Pipex DialTime Shared 3	www.pipex.com/	£46.71	Yes	Yes	12	50	Yes	National Rate
Pipex DialTime Shared 5	www.pipex.com/	£34.96	Yes	Yes	12	50	Yes	National Rate
Pipex DialTime Shared Evening & w/e	www.pipex.com/	£23.21	Yes	Yes	12	50	Yes	National Rate
PlusNet Connect Biz	www.plus.net	£39.99	Yes	Yes	Unlimited	500	Yes	Local Rate
PlusNet Connect Biz Lite	www.plus.net	£19.99	Yes	Yes	Unlimited	500	Yes	Local Rate
PlusNet Connect Heavy User	www.plus.net	£29.99	Yes	Yes	Unlimited	250	Yes	Local Rate
PlusNet Connect Lite User	www.plus.net	£8.99	Yes	Yes	Unlimited	250	Yes	Local Rate
PlusNet Connect Standard	www.plus.net	£14.99	Yes	Yes	Unlimited	250	Yes	Local Rate
Powergen Anytime	www.pgen.net	£13.99	Yes	Yes	5	10	Yes	National Rate
Powergen Daytime	www.pgen.net	£9.99	Yes	Yes	5	10	Yes	National Rate
Powergen Evenings & Weekends	www.pgen.net	£9.99	Yes	Yes	5	10	Yes	National Rate
Qadisho Business Unlimited	www.qadisho.com	£12.99	Yes	Yes	15	10	Yes	Premium – 50p
Qadisho Home Lite	www.qadisho.com	£5.75	Yes	Yes	15	10	Yes	Premium – 50p
Qadisho Home Off-Peak	www.qadisho.com	£9.99	Yes	Yes	15	10	Yes	Premium – 50p
Qadisho Universal	www.qadisho.com	£16.49	Yes	Yes	15	10	Yes	Premium – 50p
Qadisho Unlimited	www.qadisho.com	£13.99	Yes	Yes	15	10	Yes	Premium – 50p
Quicksurfer Anytime	www.quicksurfer.co.uk	£12.99	Yes	Yes	7	10	Yes	National Rate
Quicksurfer Business	www.quicksurfer.co.uk	£15.00	Yes	Yes	7	10	Yes	National Rate
Quicksurfer Business Plus	www.quicksurfer.co.uk	£23.50	Yes	Yes	7	10	Yes	National Rate
Quicksurfer Daytime	www.quicksurfer.co.uk	£8.99	Yes	Yes	7	10	Yes	National Rate
Quicksurfer Evenings & Weekends	www.quicksurfer.co.uk	£7.99	Yes	Yes	7	10	Yes	National Rate
Quicksurfer Evenings & Weekends	www.quicksurfer.co.uk	£7.99	Yes	Yes	7	10	Yes	National Rate
SafariConnect Anytime	www.safariconnect.com	£12.99	Yes	Yes	5	15	Yes	Premium – 50p
SafariConnect Home&Away	www.safariconnect.com	£19.99	Yes	Yes	5	15	Yes	Premium – 50p
Silvermead Business Unlimited	www.silvermead.net	£12.91	Yes	Yes	15	10	Yes	National Rate
Silvermead Off-Peak	www.silvermead.net	£9.99	Yes	Yes	15	10	Yes	National Rate
Silvermead Unlimited @ Home	www.silvermead.net	£13.99	Yes	Yes	15	10	Yes	National Rate
SniffOut PeakTime	www.sniffout.net	£11.99	Yes	Yes	Unlimited	Unlimited	Yes	Local Rate
SniffOut SmartTime	www.sniffout.net	£13.99	Yes	Yes	Unlimited	Unlimited	Yes	Premium – 50p
SniffOut TimeOut	www.sniffout.net	£9.99	Yes	Yes	Unlimited	Unlimited	Yes	Premium – 50p
Sonnet Internet Solo 24/7	www.sonnetinternet.co.uk	£29.38	Yes	Yes	Unlimited	50	Yes	Local Rate
Sonnet Internet SoloLite 24/7	www.sonnetinternet.co.uk	£17.63	Yes	Yes	Unlimited	25	Yes	Local Rate
Southgrove Business 24/7	www.southgrove.com	£24.99	Yes	Yes	7	0	Yes	National Rate
Southgrove Business Daytime	www.southgrove.com	£16.50	Yes	Yes	7	0	Yes	National Rate
Southgrove Surfer+	www.southgrove.com	£9.99	Yes	Yes	7	0	Yes	National Rate
Southgrove Surfer+ 24/7	www.southgrove.com	£14.99	Yes	Yes	7	0	Yes	National Rate
Southgrove Twilight Surfer	www.southgrove.com	£5.95	Yes	Yes	7	0	Yes	National Rate
SupaNet Supahighway	www.supanet.com	£14.99	No	Yes	Unlimited	20	Yes	Premium – 50p
SurfAnytime Business Unlimited	www.surfanytime.co.uk	£14.08	Yes	Yes	100	100	Yes	Premium – 50p
SurfAnytime Diamond	www.surfanytime.co.uk	£29.99	Yes	Yes	Unlimited	50	Yes	Premium – 50p
SurfAnytime Diamond Plus	www.surfanytime.co.uk	£34.99	Yes	Yes	Unlimited	75	Yes	Premium – 50p
SurfAnytime Gold	www.surfanytime.co.uk	£15.49	Yes	Yes	15	10	Yes	Premium – 50p
SurtAnytime HomeTime	www.surfanytime.co.uk	£4.99	Yes	Yes	15	10	Yes	Premium – 50p
SurfAnytime OffPeak	www.surfanytime.co.uk	£9.99	Yes	Yes	15	10	Yes	Premium – 50p
SurtAnytime Silver	www.surfanytime.co.uk	£12.99	Yes	Yes	15	10	Yes	Premium – 50p
Surfmore	www.surfmore.co.uk	£14.99	Yes	Yes	3	0	No	N/A
Tesco.net Anytime	www.tesco.net	£12.99	Yes	Yes	5	10	Yes	Premium – 50p
Tesco.net Daytime	www.tesco.net	£5.99	Yes	Yes	5	10	Yes	Premium – 50p
The Posh ISP	www.theposh.com	£14.99	Yes	Yes	7	10	Yes	National Rate
Timewarp 100 Evenings & Weekends	www.timewarp.co.uk	£12.64	No	Yes	6	20	Yes	National Rate
Tiny T:Surf Value	www.tinyonline.net	£8.99	Yes	Yes	5	15	Yes	Premium – 50p
TinyT:SurfPlus	www.tinyonline.net	£14.99	Yes	Yes	5	15	Yes	Premium – 50p
Tiscali Anytime	www.tiscali.co.uk	£14.99	Yes	Yes	Unlimited	100	Yes	Premium – 50p
Tiscali Daytime	www.tiscali.co.uk	£5.99	Yes	Yes	Unlimited	100	Yes	Premium – 50p
Tiscali Offpeak	www.tiscali.co.uk	£11.99	Yes	Yes	Unlimited	100	Yes	Premium – 50p
V Two One Insomniac	www.v21.co.uk	£3.99	Yes	Yes	Unlimited	Unlimited	Yes	Premium – £1.00
V Two One Lite	www.v21.co.uk	£9.99	Yes	Yes	Unlimited	Unlimited	Yes	Premium – £1.00
V Two One Net Head	www.v21.co.uk	£24.99	Yes	Yes	Unlimited	Unlimited	Yes	Premium – £1.00
V Two One Small Business	www.v21.co.uk	£19.99	Yes	Yes	Unlimited	Unlimited	Yes	Premium – £1.00
V Two One Standard	www.v21.co.uk	£14.99	Yes	Yes	Unlimited	Unlimited	Yes	Premium – £1.00
Virgin.net 24seven	www.virgin.net	£13.49	Yes	Yes	5	10	Yes	Premium – £1.00
Vispa Connect Anytime	www.vispa.net	£14.95	Yes	Yes	Unlimited	15	Yes	National Rate
Vispa Connect Anytime Plus	www.vispa.net	£29.95	Yes	Yes	Unlimited	15	Yes	National Rate
Vispa Connect Hometime Lite	www.vispa.net	£13.99	No	Yes	Unlimited	15	Yes	National Rate

TOP BUYS

Webcams

Creative Video Blaster Webcam 5

£39.95

www.creative.com

What's good? Impressively smooth video output and easy to configure

What's bad? The image resolution could be better, sometimes comes loose

Telephone: 00 353 1 4333200

Verdict: 79%

Creative Webcam Go Plus

£129

www.europe.creative.com

What's good? Innovative design. Can be used as a digital camera. Good range of features

What's bad? Expensive. The digital camera aspect of the Go Plus is a tad gimmicky

Telephone: 01245 265265

Verdict: 82%

Sony CMR-PC2

£89.99

www.sonyisstorage.com

What's good? It's tiny, yet somehow manages to squeeze in the best picture quality we've seen yet

What's bad? It's a little bit fiddly to operate

Telephone: 00800 2623 7669

Verdict: 84%

Logitech ClickSmart 310

£69.99

www.logitech.com

What's good? Easy to get to grips with, affordable and fun to use

What's bad? Picture quality is far from stunning

Telephone: 01753 870900

Verdict: 78%

Practical internet

SOLVE ALL YOUR NET PROBLEMS WITH ONE SIMPLE PHONE CALL

The *Practical Internet* helpline offers you expert advice when you need it most and for a fraction of what you'd expect it to cost.

Practical Internet's expert helpline service can provide instant solutions on any of your Internet hardware and software problems. Whatever the problem, no matter how large or small, our team of dedicated experts are on hand to offer you instant help where you need it most, at home.

■ No call waiting

You only pay for the technical help you receive – there is no queuing system. So, in the event of the helpline being busy when you call up, you don't get connected and you don't even pay.

■ Limited call duration

If your problem is complicated and looks like it will take a long time to solve, you can leave it with our engineers and you can call us later for the solution.

■ Complete money back guarantee

If you are not completely satisfied with the solution given to you by our engineers, fax us your complaint on 01753 755930 or call us on 0870 800 6155 and we will give you your money back.

For complete solutions to all your Internet software and hardware problems, call us now on

0906 906 0449

HELPLINE OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK 8AM-11PM

Please note that the *Practical Internet* helpline is not able to deal with faulty cover CD enquires

OUR TEAM OF EXPERTS ARE WAITING TO HELP YOU!

Your call to the *Practical Internet* helpline is charged at £1.50 per minute (Premium rate). Each call you make will show up on your standard telephone bill

Back issues

MISSED AN ISSUE OF *PRACTICAL INTERNET*? PICK UP THAT ELUSIVE COPY HERE, AND KEEP YOUR NET KNOW-HOW IN TOP CONDITION

Issue 75

We show you where you can pick up the cheapest broadband deals quickly and easily. Plus, get the best from Windows XP and the Net. There's even a free book on squeezing the most out of Photoshop.

Workshops: Discover how we built our interactive Reader Awards site, spice up your site with DHTML menus, enjoy spyware-free file sharing, get rid of junk mail and embrace the world of bookmarklets.

On the CD: The ultimate Net music toolkit: over 70 of the best music utilities around.

Price: £5.99 (includes postage and packing)

Issue 76

Protect your PC on the Net with our security special. Look after your children online, keep hackers at bay, smash spyware, can spam and beat viruses. Also, the complete guide to Internet radio and a round-up of the ten most popular P2P clients.

Workshops: Create a site in Photoshop, protect pages with JavaScript, clean up after a virus attack, banish spyware and access your POP3 email anywhere.

On the CD: Five full programs, including Ask Sam 3.0 and BPS Spyware/Adware Remover 3.1.1.

Price: £5.99 (includes postage and packing)

Issue 77

Get the best from Google with 50 top tips that'll show you there's much more to the search engine than you may think. We also test the technical help of 12 leading ISPs and showcase ten hot new design tools.

Workshops: Create your own blog in Dreamweaver, learn more about XML, win every time on eBay, create email stationery and chat with the new ICQ.

On the CD: Fifty essential Internet utilities that you can't afford to be without, plus four full programs including ImageZoom 1.2 and TopStyle Pro 2.5.

Price: £5.99 (includes postage and packing)

Issue 78

Discover what's hip and happening in the world of digital music with our guide to the developments that are set to revolutionise the way we listen to tunes. Don't miss our advice on killing junk mail fast or the guide to the lightning-fast Opera 7.

Workshops: Perfect galleries in Elements 2, sliding menus with Flash, layers in Dreamweaver, protect your PC with a free firewall, optimise your MP3s and more!

On the CD: Pest control toolkit to rid your life of spam, spyware and more. Four full versions including Canvas 6, Xara Webstyle 2.0 and Watchman 4.9.

Price: £5.99 (includes postage and packing)

Issue 79

Use the Net to cut the cost of everything from home insurance to the latest CDs. Learn more about Wi-Fi, protect children online and hear some horror stories from the vaults of Friends Reunited. There's even a free 36-page magazine on picking the perfect Web host.

Workshops: Enjoy Paint Shop Pro 5, create 10Kb Flash animations, stream media with Dreamweaver, convert vinyl into MP3, and banish adware with Ad-aware 6.

On the CD: Full versions of Paint Shop Pro 5, SurfSecret 3.0 and WEBSmith. Also, tools for parental control and a whole batch of HTML helpers.

Price: £5.99 (includes postage and packing)

Issue 80

Picking a broadband ISP has never been easy, until now. We show you how to choose the right ISP. Plus guides to online chat and booking a holiday online, and a rundown of the 20 sickest sites around.

Workshops: Build a stunning home page with the help of Flash MX, get to grips with NetObjects Fusion MX, get more from Outlook Express with plug-ins, and Gnutella file sharing with BearShare.

On the CD: Three full-version programs, including NetObjects Fusion 4. There are also collections of email plug-ins and chat clients.

Price: £5.99 (includes postage and packing)

PRACTICAL INTERNET BACK ISSUES

YOUR DETAILS

Name:.....

Address:.....

.....

.....

.....

.....Postcode: .....

Telephone No:.....

Email:.....

I WOULD LIKE TO ORDER:

☐ ISSUE 75 ☐ ISSUE 76 ☐ ISSUE 77

☐ ISSUE 78 ☐ ISSUE 79 ☐ ISSUE 80

(Subject to availability. Overseas prices available on request)

Please return this order form or a photocopy of it together with your cheque/postal order (if applicable) to the following address: ***Paragon Publishing Ltd, FREEPOST NATW1809, (Customer Interface), SOMERTON, TA11 6ZA.*** *It won't cost you a penny in stamps if posted in the UK. Alternatively, call the subscription hotline on* ***01454 642442****, fax your order on* ***01458 271146*** *or email us at* ***pi@cisubs.co.uk***

☐ *From time to time, Paragon sends out news about exciting new products and opportunities that are of interest to our readers. If you do not wish to receive such information, please tick this box.*

METHOD OF PAYMENT (no cash please)

Please indicate your choice of method

☐ CHEQUE *Please make payable to Paragon Publishing Ltd*

☐ CREDIT CARD

☐ Delta ☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard ☐ Switch

Card number:

☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐ | ☐☐ *If applicable*

Expiry date: ☐☐/☐☐

Issue No. ☐☐ *(Switch only)*

Signature: .....

Date: .....

Call our credit card hotline on 01454 642442

"We help businesses do things e-differently." - Peter Harris, QiQ Limited.

www.qiq.co.uk 07092 115 100 [+44 7092 115 100] info@qiq.co.uk

EBIZ-INTERNET.com

We're Your Web Design Partner

Introducing The DIY Sitebuilder Service, Integrated E-Business Applications To Provide A Solution For Your Business!

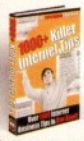
Our online DIY site builder applications provide you with everything you need to run an effective on-line business without professional help. We offer an affordable, professional and reliable solution so you can be online within minutes and ready to promote your business on the World Wide Web.

This comprehensive suite of business tools is split into three packages to suit all budgets and requirements ranging from the bronze design only package, through to silver and gold packages incorporating ebusiness and marketing tools. This allows you to select the best option for your specific requirements.

To see a demo of the main SiteBuilder Application
Please visit: www.ebiz-internet.com
or email us: info@ebiz-internet.com

- Bespoke Web Design Service
- Full Web Design Services
- Database Development
- ECommerce - Shopping Cart & Credit Card Processing
- Multimedia Development
- Search Engine Positioning (Top 25 Guaranteed)
- Online Marketing - Banner Ads
- Ezine Promotion and Pay Per Click
- Copywriting & Content Development
- EBook Creation
- Software Engineering & Application Development
- Application Service Provider Hosting and Domain Registration

If You Subscribe to our FREE Newsletter Today, Receive



1001 Internet Tips eBook Absolutely **FREE!**

30 Day Money Back Guarantee - Place your order for the DIY SiteBuilder Service today and if you are not happy with your purchase for any reason just let us know within 30 days and you will receive a full refund.

Visit us at:
WWW.EBIZ-INTERNET.COM
or email us at:
info@EBIZ-INTERNET.COM
Or Call:
08707 606 478

123-reg.co.uk

Check it out yourself
www.123-reg.co.uk

1 Register
It's never been easier or cheaper to have your own domain name!
- Lowest prices in the World, guaranteed!
- Domain Names from *9p!
- Totally automated service
- Packed with great web and email features

2 Build Build before you buy... risk free!
It's never been as simple or as fast to build a great looking site!
Exclusive to 123-reg, this new low-cost service allows anyone to build and maintain a professional website in minutes; no knowledge of programming required!

3 Host
There's no better place to host your site!
Choose from two great packages that will keep your websites on-line...**all the time!**

*Plus registrar registration fee. **Monthly fee must be paid annually. †Monthly fee must be paid annually and excludes one-off setup fee of £9.99. See Website for full details. All prices exclude VAT. E&OE

Host Europe

DOMAIN NAMES WITH SOMETHING EXTRA...

SupaNames.co.uk offer the UK's genuine best value hosting.
We use powerful UK based Linux servers with 99.9% average uptime.

Value Host Package from £13.99 pa
Your choice of domain
35mb of Linux webspace
1 x POP3 email account
PHP4 scripting
MySQL (databases)
CGI-BIN, SSI & WAP
Flexible visitor bandwidth
Expert email support
No set-up fee

Value Host PRO Package from £23.99 pa
Your choice of domain
35mb of Linux webspace
Unlimited POP3 email accounts
Unlimited Autoresponders
FREE Password Protected Directories
FREE FrontPage Extensions
MySQL (databases)
PHP4 scripting
CGI-BIN, SSI & WAP
Pre-installed CGI scripts
Flexible visitor bandwidth
Expert email support
No set-up fee

Domain names with full hosting from only £13.99

No other hidden charges or set-up fees.

Order online at: www.supanames.co.uk

"..certainly worthwhile.."
.net magazine. Oct 2000

Supa names.co.uk

Instant FREE account set-up at:

Prices exclusive of VAT

www.supanames.co.uk

WebFusion®
seriously easy web hosting

Host Europe

Seriously Easy Web Hosting For Business

£199 Business Professional PER YEAR

"Everything you need for a profitable web site"
Philippa Forrester
TV presenter and technology expert

- 1000MB Lightning-Fast UK Web Space
- 10GB Data Transfer (Bandwidth) per Month
- MyServerWorld™ 10.0 Control Panel
- FREE and UNLIMITED Phone and E-mail Support
- Unlimited E-mail Forwarding, Mailing Lists and Autoresponders
- Your Own Domain Name
- 1000 POP3 E-mail Boxes
- Free Use of Secure Server
- MySQL Database
- On-line Help
- Regular Server Backups
- 30 day Money Back Guarantee
- Terminate Anytime
- SAME HOUR SETUP

e-mail us: sales@webfusion.co.uk | order on-line: www.webfusion.co.uk | sales hotline 0870 333 9715

The Positive Internet Company Ltd

- Fast, Reliable, Powerful Web Hosting
- Fully Managed Open Solutions
- Tailored Dedicated Linux RAID Servers
- PHP, Servlets/JSP, MySQL and more
- Refreshingly Human Support
- Maximum Security & Stability
- Generous Bandwidth

100% LINUX

we're good

good@positive-internet.com | Freephone 0800 316 1006 | www.positive-internet.com

r2 web design

Web 2 design

A complete web design and internet consultancy.

WEB MARKETING
WEB DESIGN
WEB HOSTING
DOMAIN NAMES
E-COMMERCE
DATABASE DESIGN

T: 0800 542 83 99
EMAIL: TEAM@R2-WEBDESIGN.COM
WEB: WWW.R2-WEBDESIGN.COM

accessAnet

We specialise in designing websites that meet accessibility guidelines - www.accessanet.com

We provide a range of services from auditing and upgrading existing websites, to building new accessible internet solutions. Our website has qualified for RNIB's 'See it Right' Accessible Website logo, demonstrating our ability to design and create fully accessible websites.

Logos used with kind permission:
RNIB 'See it Right' - http://www.rnib.org.uk/digital/siraccess/
Valid HTML 4.0! - http://validator.w3.org/
Bobby WorldWide Approved - http://bobby.watchfire.com/

Bobby APPROVED | W3C HTML 4.0 | see it right accessible RNIB

Namehog WEB HOSTING PACKAGES

Secure Online Ordering

HOME USER PACKAGE £18
25Mb, 5 POPs, 500Mb Bandwidth p.m,PHP 3

ADVANCED USER PACKAGE £30
75Mb, 10 POPs, 750Mb Bandwidth, 1x MySQL, PHP4, SSI, FP 2002

SMALL BUSINESS PACKAGE £50
150Mb, 15 POPs, 1Gb Bandwidth, ASP, 3x MySQL, 3 x DSN PHP4, SSI, FP 2002

BUSINESS PRO PACKAGE £70
200Mb, 20 POPs, 1Gb Bandwidth, ASP, JSP, 5x MySQL, 5x DSN, PHP4, SSI, FP 2002

PREMIUM BUSINESS PACKAGE £90
250Mb, 50 POPs, 1.5Gb Bandwidth, ASP, 10x MySQL, 10x DSN,PHP4, SSI, FP 2002, JSP & Servlets, RAID Backup

.co.uk DOMAINS ONLY £7.50

DOMAIN NAMES:

-UK Domain Names
.co.uk/.org.uk/.ltd.uk.....£7.50

-US Domain Names
.com/.org/.net.....from £12.99
.biz/.info.....£21.95

Free holding page & Web forwarding with each domain name. FREE support & a huge Online knowledgebase & Support Forum, NO catches,NO hidden costs, FREE transfer & speedy same day setup.

ALL PRICES EXCLUDE VAT

0870 9059 444
www.namehog.net
info@namehog.net

4D Internet Ltd ....a new DIMENSION in internet services....

FEATURES

- 1000mb Web Space
- 10000mb Bandwidth
- Control Panel
- Control Panel for each user
- Shared SSL Space
- Unlimited POP3 Accounts
- Unlimited FTP Accounts
- Unlimited Email Forwarders

£30.00 per month

- Unlimited Email Autoresponders
- LiveStats 5.2
- ASP/.NET/PHP/Perl Support
- Support for mySQL and MS Access (inc. phpMyAdmin)
- E-mail Virus Scanning
- Webmail
- Online FileManager
- Support for FrontPage Extensions
- Anonymous Nameservers and Control Panel

£299.00 per year

W: www.4dhosting.com
T: 0845 1668386

---

fair ADSL™.com

UK'S CHEAPEST BROADBAND PROVIDER

FREE DIALUP

GET IT FOR £18.99 per mth ONLY

www.fairadsl.co.uk

DON'T GET STUNG

Some companies charge £25 (or more) to release the IPS TAG for your co.uk domain name. Suddenly that cheap or "free" domain name isn't the bargain it first seemed!

With Internetters there are NO RELEASE FEES

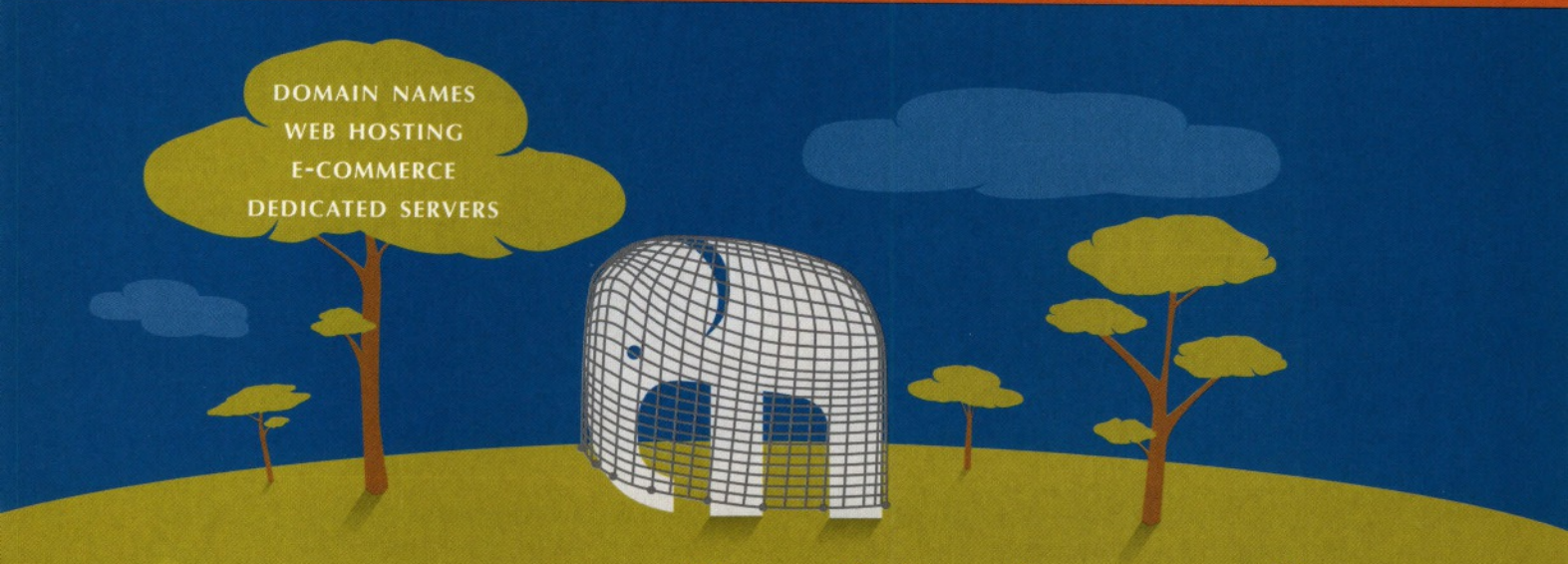
ICANN Accredited Registrar

0800 316 33 77

internetters®

www.internetters.co.uk

EASY TO BUY • EASY TO SET UP • EASY TO SEE



net yourself a big bargain

Get a catchy new domain name from £3.50 or a brilliant web hosting package from £30 per year. Backed with robust support and technology, Easyspace is one of the largest ICANN accredited registrars in the world, and the UK's favourite domain name registrar.

log on today at: **www.easyspace.com**

Established in 1997 with over ½ million customers. Accredited ICANN registrar & nominet member. Prices exclude VAT.

Easyspace

your perfect partner for the web

WebFusion®
seriously easy web hosting

Part of the Host Europe Group

Seriously Easy Web Hosting For Home Use

£9.95 Home Entry PER MONTH

"Great features with FREE and UNLIMITED support"

Philippa Forrester
TV presenter and technology expert

- 600MB Lightning-Fast UK Web Space
- 3GB Data Transfer (Bandwidth) per Month
- MyServerWorld™ 10.0 Control Panel
- FREE & UNLIMITED Phone & E-mail Support
- Extensive On-line Help
- Unlimited E-mail Forwarding, Mailing Lists and Autoresponders
- Your Own Domain Name
- ASP & Real Audio Support
- Automatic Graphical Access Stats
- POP3 E-mail Box
- FTP Access
- Regular Server Backups
- 30 day Money Back Guarantee
- Terminate Anytime
- SAME HOUR SETUP

e-mail us: sales@webfusion.co.uk | order on-line: www.webfusion.co.uk | sales hotline 0870 333 9716

This offer applies to Practical Internet readers ONLY!

FREE Website Statistics*

Register now at www.hitmatic.com quoting ref. PG81

Log Analysis just can't compete!

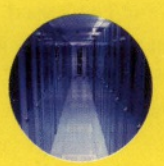
- > Live reports available 24/7
- > Captures more data items
- > Superior accuracy
- > Easy to install and use
- > No lengthy downloads
- > Simple to understand
- > Track online visitors
- > Receive reports by email in PDF or XLS format

hitmatic® Website Statistics

*Enjoy a free one month trial of Hitmatic Website Statistics. Additional charges may apply. See http://www.hitmatic.com/PG81 for more details.

WEB TAPESTRY

Web Hosting
From £35 per year



Reseller Accounts
From £25 per month

Dedicated servers
From £83 per month

Colocation
5 locations across Europe

Domain Names
With no hidden extra costs

ADSL Broadband
Always on Internet access

Leased Lines
High speed lines to your office

Dialup access
Subscription Free Internet Access

Network Consultancy
Help with building your networks

Order Online at www.webtapestry.net
Phone Free 08000 15 17 18
e-mail info@webtapestry.net

Web Tapestry is part of Axamba

axamba
www.axamba.com

simply ... the better choice

POWERFUL DOMAIN & HOSTING SOLUTIONS FOR HOME AND BUSINESS USERS

SIMPLY NAMES
THE EUROPEAN DOMAIN SPECIALISTS

European Domains available from: £9.99 p/yr

NEW .nl available from Jan 29th

INCLUDED WITH EVERY DOMAIN AT NO EXTRA COST:

- FREE UNLIMITED EMAIL FORWARDING
  Set Up To 100 Email Addresses
- FREE WEBSITE FORWARDING
  Banner Free Cloaked or Standard Forwarding
- FREE DOMAIN PARKING
  Reserve your Domain until you need to use it
- FREE EXPERT SUPPORT
  By Email & Telephone
- FREE ONLINE CONTROL
  Exclusive Domain Management Tools

Register your domains in the UK, Europe & Internationally

.co.uk	.me.uk	.org.uk	£2.89
.com	.net	.org	£8.99
.biz	.info	.us	£9.99

Total Price Per Year Inc. Registry Fees (Min 2yr reg. period, price excludes VAT)

SIMPLY HOSTING
QUALITY EMAIL & WEB HOSTING PLANS
PLANS FROM £3.99 p/m

SIMPLY SERVERS
PROFESSIONALLY MANAGED DEDICATED SERVERS
SERVERS FROM £69.99 p/m

simply.com

WWW.SIMPLY.COM
TEL: +44 [0] 1684 893020
EMAIL: SALES@SIMPLY.COM

SIMPLY.COM LTD . MALVERN HILLS SCIENCE PARK . WR14 3SZ . UK

simply® & simplynet® are registered trademarks of Simply.Com Ltd

2020 media

Java - Unix - Microsoft - ASP - PHP - Cold Fusion - MSSQL- MySQL - Access

Real People
Real Service

2020Media offers an unrivalled service in quality hosting. We have real people answering the phones who are experts at handling your technical needs - you won't be left waiting in call handling systems.

Our new Hosting Configurator service allows you to precisely specify your own hosting arrangements. You won't be constrained by a set hosting plan, with the Hosting Configurator you get and pay for only the features you need - unlike most hosting plans where even if you don't use a feature, you are paying for it.

Go Configure!

We build and maintain our own servers which are located in the largest internet hub in Europe - Telehouse

Save money with our Hosting Configurator now - online at www.2020media.com

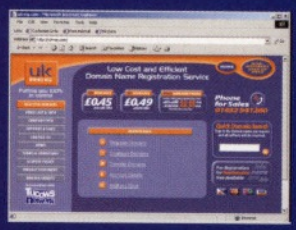
Additional
business features

Spidergen - state of the art Content Management System
Webmail - collect and send email from anywhere
Virus scanning - edge scanning provides best protection yet
Firewall - Servers protected by CISCO firewalls throughout

www.2020media.com
0870 739 2020
97 Mortimer Street, London, W1W 7SU

uk REG

UK's Best Value Domain Name Registration Service



100%
Control of your domains via our online control panel

FREE E-mail forwarding
FREE Web forwarding
No extra charges if you wish to transfer your domain away

Buy your .me.uk Domains Today

UK DOMAINS
£0.45 .co.uk etc
Price does not include NIC fees
Nominet (UK domains per 2 years £5.00 +VAT)

US DOMAINS
£0.49 .com etc
Price does not include NIC fees
ICANN (US domains per 1 year £8.51 +VAT)

NEW DOMAINS
.info £1.49
.biz £1.49
Price does not include NIC fees
Afilas & Neulevel (Domains per 2 years £15.02 +VAT)

BULK DOMAINS
Domains from just 20p includes UK and US names
20p

Register online NOW at
www.ukreg.com

PI550

WebFusion® seriously easy web hosting

Host Unlimited Domains for FREE!

Host Europe GROUP

Seriously Easy Web Hosting For Resellers

£50 WebFusion Reseller PER MONTH (or £500 per year)

"Whether you're a web designer, a developer or an entrepreneur, you won't find a better Reseller package ANYWHERE."
Philippa Forrester
TV presenter and technology expert

- Create your own Web Hosting Packages
- Unlimited Web Space & POP3 E-mail Boxes
- The Original and continually the Best Reseller Account in Europe
- Design your own 100% Branded Control Panel
- Full Customer Management System
- FREE & UNLIMITED 24/7/365 Tech. Support
- Full CGI-B N, PERL, Real Audio and MP3
- MyServerWorld™ 10.0 Control Panel
- 10GB Data Transfer (Bandwidth) per month, per full Account
- ASP, Telnet and PHP4
- Money Back Guarantee
- Terminate Anytime
- SAME HOUR SETUP
- Plus lots, lots more

e-mail us: sales@webfusion.co.uk | order on-line: www.webfusion.co.uk | sales hotline 0870 333 9717

HostPlus

All packages include a free.uk domain name

Basic Hosting
£19.99 a year
50 mb Web Space, 50 Email Accounts

Value Hosting
£29.99 a year
100 mb Web Space, 100 Email accounts

Pro Hosting
£39.99 a year
Unlimited Web Space, Unlimited Email Accounts
Pro Hosting also comes with Unlimited Secure (https) webspace

PHP
MySQL
SSI
SHTML
CGI
Perl
Control Panel
Telephone Support
with all packages!

hostplus.co.uk

START YOUR OWN INTERNET BUSINESS

Earn over £1000+ a week. No Experience required to run your own deluxe interactive automated website. Choose from Dating, Property, Cars, Jobs, E-Commerce and Town Portals Website.

Visit our website for full details:

www.fast-data.co.uk

Tel: 01634 232464

r2 web design

web 2 design

A complete web design and internet consultancy.

WEB MARKETING
WEB DESIGN
WEB HOSTING
DOMAIN NAMES
E-COMMERCE
DATABASE DESIGN

T: 0800 542 83 99
EMAIL: TEAM@R2-WEBDESIGN.COM
WEB: WWW.R2-WEBDESIGN.COM

Discount Inkjet Cartridges & Supplies

Epson Compatible	
Non Chipped Blacks	£01.99
Non Chipped Colours	£02.99
N-Chip Twin Packs (Blk+Col)	£03.99
Chipped Blacks	£03.99
Chipped Colours	£05.99
Chipped Twin Packs (Blk+Col)	£08.99
Canon Compatible	
BCI-3 Black,C,M or Yellow	£01.99
BCI-6 Black C,M or Yellow	£01.99
BCI-21 Black	£00.99
BCI-21 Colour	£01.99
BCI-24 Black	£01.99
BCI-24 Colour	£02.99
BC-02 Black	£08.99
BC-05 Colour	£09.99
Lexmark Compatible	
12A1970 Black	£10.99
12A1980 Colour	£12.99
17G0050 Black	£10.99
17G0060 Colour	£13.99
15M0120 Colour	£12.99
13400HC Black	£10.99
13619HC Colour	£12.99
Lexmark Compatible Twin Packs	
12A1970\12A1980 (Blk+Col)	£22.99
12A1970\15M0120 (Blk+Col)	£22.99
17G0050\17G0060 (Blk+Col)	£23.99
Xerox Compatible	
8R7971 H/C Black	£02.99
8R7972\73\74 C,M or Yellow	£01.99

HP Compatible	
HP51626\No 26 Black	£07.99
HP51629\No 29 Black	£07.99
HP51645\No 45 Black	£07.99
C6614\No 20 Black	£08.99
C6615\No 15 Black	£08.99
HP51625\No 25 Colour	£10.99
HP51641\No 41 Colour	£10.99
HP5149\No 49 Colour	£10.99
C1823\No 23 Colour	£10.99
C6578\No 78 Colour	£11.99
C6625\No 17 Colour	£11.99
HP Compatible Twin Packs	
HP526\51625 (Blk+Col)	£17.99
HP51629\51649 (Blk+Col)	£17.99
HP51645\51641 (Blk+Col)	£17.99
HP51645\C1823 (Blk+Col)	£17.99
HP51645\C6578 (Blk+Col)	£18.99
C6615\C1823 (Blk+Col)	£18.99
C6615\C6578 (Blk+Col)	£19.99
C6615\C6625 (Blk+Col)	£19.99
Inkjet Refills & Bulk Inks	
Black Inkjet Refill Kit	£03.99
Colour Inkjet Refill Kit	£05.99
Black+Colour Refill Kits	£08.99
60ml Black Bulk Ink	£02.99
60ml C,M or Yellow Bulk Ink	£03.49
250ml Black Bulk Ink	£09.99
250ml C,M or Yellow Bulk Ink	£11.99
Inkjet Paper	
Photo Gloss 160g - 20pk A4	£04.99
Inkjet Card 160g - 100pk A4	£08.49

For these and thousands of other amazing deals on printer supplies visit:-

box-shift.co.uk

or call

0870 011 2005

box-shift.co.uk sells primarily to business users and as such all prices quoted are based upon purchasing multiple quantities and exclude vat @ 17.5%

HOST UNLIMITED DOMAINS!

Pro Virtual Server

30 Day Money Back Guarantee

- 250MB UK UNIX Web Space
- Host Unlimited Domains
- Unlimited POP3 Mailboxes
- Unlimited Lists & Autoresponders
- Unlimited MySQL Databases
- 5GB Bandwidth
- Virtual Control Panel
- PHP4, Perl, CGI
- FrontPage 2002 Extensions
- 128bit Secure Web Space
- FTP, Telnet and SSH
- Real Media and Windows Media
- 99.99% UP Time
- Wusage web-stats

£20pm Or £200 pa

Reseller Pro

- 2GB UK UNIX Web Space
- 10GB Bandwidth
- Create Unlimited Accounts
- Unbranded Control Panel

£30pm Or £300 pa

WWW.BPWEB.NET

there is only one name for value and service

www.theName.co.uk domains & webhosting

Our Domain Name Promise

- ✓ We ALWAYS register YOU as the Owner
- ✓ We ALWAYS make YOU the Admin Contact
- ✓ We are a UK Company, registered at Companies House
- ✓ No Hidden charges and no Release fees
- ✓ Fast, friendly expert advice by phone - no ticket systems

Large choice of domain names from £7.50/year
Free custom parking page with all domains

E-mail and web forwarding from £7.50/year
Advanced web forwarding system
with webstats - unique in UK

Premium budget hosting from £45/year
Free web mail and webstats on all accounts

For the keenest prices, there is only one Name - www.theName.co.uk
Order online now at www.theName.co.uk or call us on - 08707 65 63 64
Prices quoted are subject to VAT

This offer applies to Practical Internet readers ONLY!

FREE Website Statistics*

Register now at www.hitmatic.com quoting ref. PG81

Log Analysis just can't compete!

- > Live reports available 24/7
- > Captures more data items
- > Superior accuracy
- > Easy to install and use
- > No lengthy downloads
- > Simple to understand
- > Track online visitors
- > Receive reports by email in PDF or XLS format

hitmatic® Website Statistics

*Enjoy a free one month trial of Hitmatic Website Statistics. Additional charges may apply. See http://www.hitmatic.com/PG81 for more details.

DON'T GET STUNG

Some companies charge £25 (or more) to release the IPS TAG for your co.uk domain name. Suddenly that cheap or "free" domain name isn't the bargain it first seemed!

With Internetters there are NO RELEASE FEES

ICANN Accredited Registrar

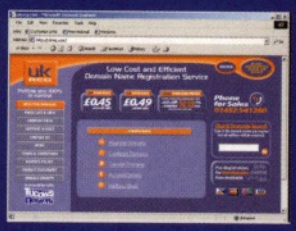
0800 316 33 77

internetters®

www.internetters.co.uk

UK REG

UK's Best Value Domain Name Registration Service



100%
Control of your domains via our online control panel

FREE E-mail forwarding
FREE Web forwarding
No extra charges if you wish to transfer your domain away

Buy your .me.uk Domains Today

UK DOMAINS
£0.45 .co.uk etc
Price does not include NIC fees
Nominet (UK domains per 2 years £5.00 +VAT)

US DOMAINS
£0.49 .com etc
Price does not include NIC fees
ICANN (US domains per 1 year £8.51 +VAT)

NEW DOMAINS
.info £1.49
.biz £1.49
Price does not include NIC fees
Afilas & Neulevel (Domains per 2 years £15.02 +VAT)

BULK DOMAINS
Domains from just 20p includes UK and US names
20p

Register online NOW at
www.ukreg.com

PI550

Our Data Centre. Your peace of mind.

Dedicated Servers

Technical Specifications
Windows 2000 pre-installed
FREE & UNLIMITED Tech Support 24/7/365
Service Level Agreement
Generous bandwidth allowance
Additional bandwidth just 2p per MB!
2 IP addresses as standard
Full Administrator level access
Free monitoring of one server port
Dedicated Control Panel (DCP)
Install your own applications or software
Power connection through dual 80 KVA UPS
Free server reboots if required
Plus FREE Ensim Software on all Windows Servers...phone for details!

Windows 2000 ensim

*No set up fee applies to customers paying for the year

Free Ensim Software FREE!
Windows Servers
128MB, 40GB HD, 10GB Data Transfer per month. Ideal for MSCPs, MCSEs and VB programmers!

£199.99 per month
£2399.88 per year
NO SET UP FEES

0870 333 9768
www.dedicated-servers.co.uk
Prices exclude VAT @ 17.5%

HOST UNLIMITED DOMAINS!

30 Day Money Back Guarantee

Pro Virtual Server
- 250MB UK UNIX Web Space
- Host Unlimited Domains
- Unlimited POP3 Mailboxes
- Unlimited Lists & Autoresponders
- Unlimited MySQL Databases
- 5GB Bandwidth
- Virtual Control Panel
- PHP4, Perl, CGI
- FrontPage 2002 Extensions
- 128bit Secure Web Space
- FTP, Telnet and SSH
- Real Media and Windows Media
- 99.99% UP Time
- Wusage web-stats

£20 pm Or £200 pa

Reseller Pro
- 2GB UK UNIX Web Space
- 10GB Bandwidth
- Create Unlimited Accounts
- Unbranded Control Panel

£30 pm Or £300 pa

WWW.BPWEB.NET

START YOUR OWN INTERNET BUSINESS

Earn over £1000+ a week. No Experience required to run your own deluxe interactive automated website. Choose from Dating, Property, Cars, Jobs, E-Commerce and Town Portals Website.

Visit our website for full details:

www.fast-data.co.uk

Tel: 01634 232464

donhost Unlimited Reseller Account

Reseller UNIX
- Host Unlimited Domain Names
- Unlimited Disk Space
- Unlimited Mailboxes
- PHP4 Scripting
- Perl CGI Scripts
- Server Side Includes
- mySQL Database Server
- FrontPage 2000 Extensions
- 128bit SSL Secure Server
- Graphical Usage Statistics
- Unlimited Client Control Panels
- Personal Server Names

£39.99 pm or £399.99 pa

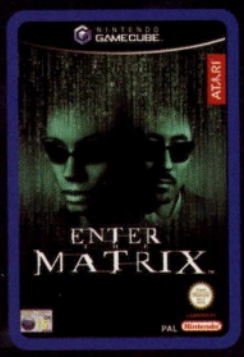
Reseller Windows
- Host Unlimited Domain Names
- Unlimited Disk Space
- Unlimited Mailboxes
- Active Server Pages
- Active Perl CGI
- Microsoft Access Databases
- FrontPage 2002 Extensions
- 128bit SSL Secure Server
- MSSQL 2000 Database Server
- Graphical Usage Statistics
- Unlimited Client Control Panels
- Personal Server Names

£49.99 pm or £499.99 pa

Call: 08707 41 41 51 Or Visit: www.donhost.co.uk

PLAY

FREE DELIVERY ON ALL ITEMS!

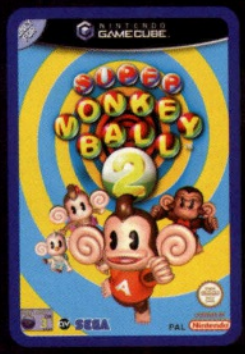


~~RRP £39.99~~ £34.99

Enter the Matrix ™

~~RRP £39.99~~ £29.99

Ikaruga



~~RRP £39.99~~ £34.99

Super Monkey Ball 2

~~RRP £39.99~~ £34.99

Sonic Mega Collection

~~RRP £39.99~~ £34.99

Skies Of Arcadia: Legends

PLAY.COM

MOVIES MUSIC GAMES

SEGA, the SEGA logo, and SONIC MEGA COLLECTION are either registered trademarks or trademarks of SEGA CORPORATION. © 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 2002. SEGA CORPORATION. All Rights Reserved. Published by SEGA CORPORATION. Distributed by Infogrames. © SEGA/OVERWORKS ,2000. ©TREASURE 2001, 2003. All rights reserved. Developed by Treasure. The Atari trademark and logo are property of Infogrames. Published and distributed by Infogrames Europe S.A. SEGA, AV Design and SUPER MONKEY BALL are registered trademarks or trademarks of SEGA Corporation. © AMUSEMENT VISION / SEGA, 2001, 2002. DOLE ® and DOLE & Sun Design ® are registered trademarks of Dole Food Company, Inc. and are used under license." Published by SEGA CORPORATION. Distributed by Infogrames. Enter The Matrix © 2003 Infogrames, Inc. under license from Warner Bros. All rights reserved. Prices are correct at time of going to press. Play.com reserve the right to change prices. Please check our website for the most up to date prices and product information.

WEB'S MOST WANTED

WE NEED YOUR HELP IN TRACKING DOWN THESE HOME PAGE CRIMINALS

Name: Bill Bean or 'Ufoman'

Last seen at:
www.ufoman104.com

Wanted for:
Anything you could vaguely call paranormal. From a young age our Bill has been plagued by little green men, troublesome spirits and (ahem) demons. In one particular incident, he was forced to flee his home after repeated exorcisms failed to rid a violent spectre. Quite why he wants to broadcast his whereabouts now is another matter, but word has it that his home page is built on an ancient burial ground – oops.

Characteristics:
Describing himself as a normal bloke from Baltimore, Bill claims to have a 'sound mind'. Whether this refers to a dodgy collection of supposed alien brains – who knows. Interestingly, the large volume of supernatural shots he's captured of misshapen clouds or door stains suggests that while others would panic, Bill just grabs a camera.

Significant others:
All this hasn't stopped 'Mr.Bean' from being sighted on US TV, with the Roseanne show pipping Jerry Springer in the wacko stakes. Presumably Bill wowed the audiences as he recalled the crazy day he coughed up some chips. These were no Unidentified Fried Objects, but micro-extraterrestrial tracking devices. How they got there no one knows, but if the freaky stuff goes saucer shaped, he could make a mint in digital watches.

Quote:
"I have had interaction with angels , UFOs, ghosts, beings, elementals , demons and beings I perceive to be part of the Heavenly Hosts!"

Name: Suzaan Branderhorst

Last seen at:
www.suzaan.com

Wanted for:
Promoting cruelty to animals. Branderhorst is renowned for her affection for Bichon Frises, a fluffy breed of dog that looks like an oversized ball of cotton wool. Her fanaticism stretches as far as co-ordinating illicit annual 'Bichon Fundays' where the pampered pooches are forced to dress up as sunflowers, flamenco dancers or monarchs.

Brandenhorst is also a horrid Web designer. Her favoured weapon is the 'Cuckoo Clock Concerto' MIDI file, which is used to deadly effect on the Suzaan.com home page. The tyrant is known for using her site to brainwash dogs into joining her, with tales of the fabled 'Rainbow Bridge' – a multi-coloured gateway for animals that connects heaven and Earth.

Significant others:
Branderhorst's two key allies are Cassie and Kaitlin, who also answer to the names Kiss of Kashmere and Kiss Me Kate. We know from photographic evidence on the Web site that Cassie is a keen snooker player and dons a waistcoat and bow tie at every available opportunity. World snooker champ Mark Williams also keeps Bichons. We'd like to know if this is pure coincidence or whether something more sinister is going on involving the Welsh Potting Machine...

Quote:
"Shining eyes and red-tongued smiles, Minds camouflaged by foo foo styles, Black bud nose 'neath mascara-ed eyes, Contented, loving, happy, sighs" Taken from 'Bichon World', a poem by Suzaan Branderhorst

Practical internet
Paragon House, St Peter's Road, Bournemouth, Dorset BH1 2JS
Tel +44 (0) 1202 299900, Fax +44 (0) 1202 299955

CUSTOMER SERVICES
If you have a problem with any aspect of this magazine – from competition enquiries to damaged copies or missing covermounts, please contact our **Customer Services Team** on 01202 200200, or email subs@paragon.co.uk

MAGAZINE TEAM
Editor Thomas Watson
thomas@paragon.co.uk
01202 209379
Managing Editor Paul Newman
Features Editor James Thornton
Staff Writer Mark Billen
Group Art Editor Steve Gotobed
Senior Designer Nicky Bartlett
Additional Design Lora Sykes
Senior Sub Editor Jo Cole
Sub Editor Colleen Johnson

CONTRIBUTORS
Phillip Bennison, Cindy Duffield, Chris Ellison, Gerard Liston, Darren Lock, Danny McAleer, Kieren McCarthy, Clive Parker, James Seabright, Mark Shufflebottom, Geoff Spick, Nick Sweeney

ADVERTISING
Advertising Sales Manager
Leylah Honeyborne
(01202 200223)
leylah@paragon.co.uk
Display Sales Executive
Duncan James
(01202 209363)
duncanj@paragon.co.uk
Classified Advertising Executive
Gemma Bell
(01202 200254)
gemmab@paragon.co.uk
Copy Controllers Jo Spick, Caroline Bradford

COVERDISC SUPPORT
Coverdisc Support
Having difficulty with our coverdisc? See the disc pages for information
Cover CD Production
Tristan Jacobs
tristanj@paragon.co.uk
Multimedia Editor
Lee Cornish
lee@paragon.co.uk

PRODUCTION & DISTRIBUTION
Production Manager
Dave Osborne
Bureau Manager Chris Rees
Scanning/prepress Wesley Neil
Circulation Manager Tim Harris
Tel: +44 (0) 1202 200200
Fax: +44 (0) 1202 200217

INTERNATIONAL LICENSING
Practical Internet magazine is available for licensing overseas. For details, please contact:
International Manager
Cathy Blackman
Tel: +44 (0) 1202 200205
Fax: + 44 (0) 1202 200235
Email: cathb@paragon.co.uk

DIRECTORS
Editorial Director Damian Butt
Production Director Jane Hawkins
Circulation and Marketing Director Kevin Petley
Advertising Director Peter Cleall
Art Director Mark Kendrick
Finance Director Steven Boyd
Managing Director Mark Simpson

SUBSCRIPTIONS
Subscription rates (13 issues)
UK £48 Europe £61 World £81

Printed by Southernprint Web Offset, 17-21 Factory Road, Poole, BH16 5SN
Distributed by Seymour Ltd, 1st Floor, 86 Newman Street, London W1P 3LD Tel: 0207 3968000

All text and layout remains the copyright of Paragon Publishing Ltd. *Practical Internet* cannot accept responsibility for any unsolicited material or transparencies. *Practical Internet* is fully independent and its views are not those of any company mentioned herein. All copyrights and trademarks are recognised and all images are used for the purpose of criticism and review only. No part of this magazine may be reproduced without the written permission of the publisher. *Practical Internet* can accept no responsibility for inaccuracies or complaints arising from adverts within the magazine.

© 2003 Paragon Publishing Ltd

ABC AUDIT BUREAU OF CIRCULATIONS
13,265 July-December 2002
Practical Internet
ISSN 1366-7661

Load balance

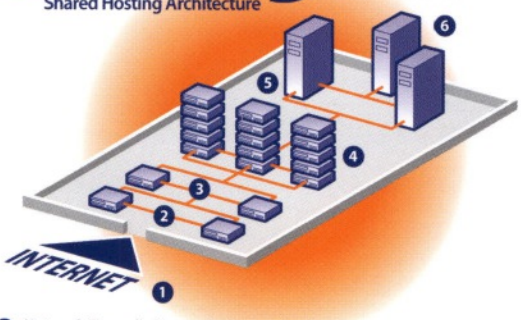
your site across multiple servers running Microsoft Windows 2003 - with full support for the .NET framework

Newenvisage

Shared Hosting Architecture offers:

- Your site hosted on multiple high performance web-servers
- All requests for your site load balanced, ensuring maximum availability
- Runs on Windows 2003 IIS6 and offers full support for ASP, ASP.NET, Perl, PHP and CGI
- Ideal for online applications and dynamic websites
- 100% uptime guaranteed

envisage
Shared Hosting Architecture



1. **Network Firewall** - Protects Fasthosts network
2. **Internal Firewall** - Second protective shield
3. **Load Balancers** - Efficiently distributes traffic across server clusters
4. **Redundant Web Servers** - Ensures delivery of site contents if one server fails
5. **Network Storage** - Independent storage optimising server performance
6. **Disk Backup** - Routine backup storage to prevent data loss

OPTIMIZED FOR Microsoft .net development

Microsoft Windows Server 2003

"I am delighted to recognise Fasthosts as a leading UK hosting company in operating a robust, commercial, virtual hosting environment running Windows 2003 within the .net framework."

Micheline Germanos,
Sales Director EMEA, Microsoft

Microsoft CERTIFIED Partner

Microsoft .NET Hosting

Our .NET account offers a superb range of features ideal for hosting online applications and dynamic websites. As well as full support for the .NET framework, the package also includes Microsoft SQL Server and support for a wide range of scripting and CGI technologies.

.NET account at a glance

Website and scripting
Your website hosted on the latest Windows 2003 servers with full support for ASP, ASP.NET, Perl, PHP, ODBC, CGI and the .NET Framework. Your web-traffic is load balanced across multiple servers using our unique ***envisage*** Hosting Technology. 2GB of web-space is included.

Matrix Web Stats
We offer real-time web-traffic analysis with Matrix Stats, a feature rich web based analysis tool.

Email
Your account includes unlimited email addresses - which can be full POP3 mail accounts or forwarders. We've also included web-mail so you can read your mail on the move plus virus scanning, spam filtering and even SMS alerts informing you when new messages arrive!

Databases
Your account includes your own dedicated database on our shared Microsoft SQL 2000 servers.

Control Panel
Our award winning online control panel is the industry leading tool for managing and provisioning your services. You can control everything from the web - from setting up domains, email, databases, installing FrontPage Extensions and more!

Plus...
FrontPage Extensions
Full access via FTP
SSL Support
Media Streaming
Password Protected Folders on your sites
Dialup Internet Access

FREE INSTANT SET UP
£19.99 FROM
PER MONTH OR £199.99 PA

The power behind web hosting
- Multiple Internet Connections
- Xtreme Support 24 x 7, 365 phone and email
- Online FAQs, Knowledge Base and White Papers
- State of the Art UK based Data Centre
- UK's best value domain names at www.ukreg.com

All your hosting needs
- Starter package from £1.99
- Business packages from £14.99
- Unlimited Reseller package from £50
- Dedicated server solutions from £89
- 30 Day Money Back Guarantee

To speak to our Sales team call

0870 888 3673

For more details and to launch your service within minutes, visit www.fasthosts.co.uk

fasthosts
www.fasthosts.co.uk

PH400

The UK's Better Value Domain Name Registration Service

INCLUDED WITH EVERY DOMAIN AT NO EXTRA COST:

FREE UNLIMITED EMAIL FORWARDING
Set Up To 100 Email Addresses

FREE WEBSITE FORWARDING
Banner Free Cloaked or Standard Forwarding

FREE DOMAIN PARKING
Reserve your Domain until you need to use it

FREE EXPERT SUPPORT
By Email & Telephone

FREE ONLINE CONTROL
Exclusive Domain Management Tools

All domain prices per year - Minimum 2 Year Term + VAT Applies

visit www.simply.com for a full list of available domains

.co.uk
.me.uk
.org.uk

£2.89 PER ANNUM

.com
.net
.org

£8.99 PER ANNUM

INCLUDES ALL REGISTRY FEES

Quality Hosting - Great Prices!

INCLUDED WITH EVERY HOSTING PACKAGE AT NO EXTRA COST:

NO RISK HOSTING
30 Day Money Back Simply Guarantee

POWERED BY THE SIMPLY.NET NETWORK
For maximum uptime

FREE EXPERT SUPPORT
By Telephone & Email

ONLINE CONTROL PANEL
For complete account management

£5.99 PER MONTH — **SMALL OFFICE HOME OFFICE PLAN**
Unlimited Email Addresses •
10 POP3 & WebMail Accounts •
250MB Fast Web Space •

BUSINESS & CORPORATE PLANS
- Unlimited Email Addresses
- 50 POP3 & WebMail Accounts
- 500MB Fast Web Space

£8.99 PER MONTH

£19.99 PER MONTH — **DESIGNER PLANS**
Host 10 Domain Names •
200 POP3 & WebMail Accounts •
1000MB Fast Web Space •

RESELLER PLANS
- Host **UNLIMITED** Domain Names
- **UNLIMITED** POP3 & WebMail Accounts
- **UNLIMITED** Fast Web Space

£39.99 PER MONTH

All plans payable annually: Set-Up fee - £9.99 + VAT Applies

" Simply.com make domain registration & hosting simple for 1000's of customers every year "

www.simply.com

simply.com

TEL: +44 [0] 1684 893020
EMAIL: SALES@SIMPLY.COM

simply® & simplynet® are registered trademarks of Simply.Com Ltd
SIMPLY.COM LTD . MALVERN HILLS SCIENCE PARK . WR14 3SZ . UK